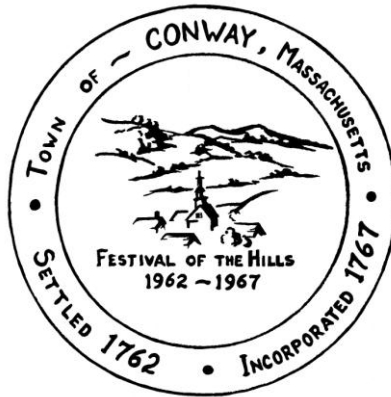


2013 Annual Report

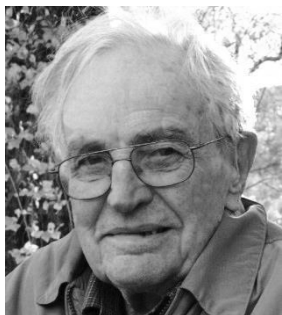
Town of Conway

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Fiscal Year 2013
July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

In Memory of Norman French



Norman T. French was born on June 21, 1918 in Bristol, CT and married Thelma Clark in 1942. They would be married for 63 years. Early on in life, Norman decided that he wanted to work for himself, constructing a truck-mounted machine repair shop, calling it the Rolling Shop, moving it from farm to farm fixing machinery. In 1954, he purchased Palmer Brothers, a business that built and sold large cider presses. The combination of the two businesses became Orchard Equipment and Supply Company (now OESCO, Inc.).

In 1967, he moved the family, business, and several employees to Conway, MA. The business thrived and expanded, adding valued employees as well as valued customers. He garnered the respect of Fire Chiefs for allowing fire-fighters employed at Orchard to leave work (with pay) to respond to a fire call.

Norman participated in town government. He served on the School Board for many years and then as Assessor for 23 years. He was an active and financial supporter of the Field Memorial Library, the Festival of the Hills and the United Congregational Church. He was very committed to his community, offering whatever was necessary from a truck to pull a parade float to supplying drinking water to the Town Garage and Fireman's Community Hall. He heartily supported all fundraising breakfasts and suppers.

Norman could turn his hand at just about anything. He was a mentor and coach, not just to his children, but to many who came in contact with him. To all of them, he was a symbol that with hard work, you could overcome any obstacle, and that a life should be lived with dignity. He was down to earth, practical, persevering, and truly a self-made man.

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NATIONAL, STATE, AND COUNTY OFFICIALS

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Edward J. Markey – D	Elizabeth Warren – D
Local: 10 Causeway Street, Suite 559	Local: 1550 Main Street, Suite 406
Boston, MA 02222	Springfield, MA 01103
218 Russell Senate Office Building	317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C. 20510

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE

Richard Neal - D
Local: 78 Center St
Pittsfield, MA 01201
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

GOVERNOR

Deval Patrick – D
Local: State Office Building
436 Dwight Street, Suite 300
Springfield, MA 01103
Massachusetts State House
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE GENERAL COURT

Sen. Benjamin Downing - D	Rep. Stephen Kulik - D
7 North Street, Suite 307	1 Sugarloaf Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201	South Deerfield, MA 01373

FRANKLIN REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

12 Olive St., Suite 2
Greenfield, MA 01301

MEETING SCHEDULES

SELECTBOARD

Every other Monday – 7:00 p.m., Town Offices. Chair: John O'Rourke,
369-4235 x3. selectboard@townofconway.com.

PLANNING BOARD

1st & 3rd Thursdays – 7:00 p.m., Town Offices. Chair: Diane Poland, 369-4235.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Thursdays – 7:00 p.m., Town Hall. Clerk: Hours, Monday 8-1, Tuesday 11-1,
Wednesday 8-1, Thurs 11-1. 369-4235 x5. assessors@townofconway.com.

BOARD OF HEALTH

2nd and 4th Mondays – 7 p.m., Town Hall. Chair: Carl Nelke. 369-4235 x8. Clerk: Th. 2
– 4 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–noon. boardofhealth@townofconway.com.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2nd & 4th Tuesday – 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Chair: John Gates, 369-4235.
jgates@cccglaw.com.

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

3rd Thursday – 7:00p.m., Conway Grammar School Library. Chair: Jan Warner, 369-
4703.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2nd Tuesday – 7:00 p.m., Frontier Regional High School Media Center. Chair: Cyndie
Ouimette, 369-8016.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

2nd Wednesday – 7:00 p.m., Franklin County Technical School, Turners Falls.
Representative: Stephanie Recore, (413) 768-9839.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

2nd Monday in May, Conway Grammar School.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Thursday following Town Meeting, Town Hall.

ELECTED OFFICIALS – 2013

SELECTBOARD

	Term Expires
John P. O'Rourke, Chair	2014
Jim Moore, Clerk	2016
Richard Bean	2015

BOARD OF HEALTH

Carle Nelke, Chair	2016
Susan Bridge	2015
William McLoughlin	2014
Regina McNealy	2015
Vacancy	2014

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Natalie H. Whitcomb, Chair	2016
Russell French	2015
Malcolm Corse	2014

CONSTABLES

Ronald Hawkes	2016
James Recore	2016
Brian Blakeslee	2016

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Janice Warner, Chair	2014
Elaine Campbell	2016
Philip Kantor	2014
Erin Beaudet	2015
Robert Moriarty	2015

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Cyndie Quimette, Chair	2016
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MODERATOR

J. Nicholas Filler	2014
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PLANNING BOARD

Diane Poland, Chair	2015
David Barten	2014
Joseph Strzegowski	2014
Michael Kurkulonis	2015

(resigned 9/30/13; Mary McClintock interim appointment, 2015)

David Chichester	2016
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TOWN CLERK

Virginia Knowlton	2016
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TREE WARDEN

Collin Burt	2014
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APPOINTED OFFICIALS
(including notes on Fiscal Year 2014)

Moderator's Appointments

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Term Expires

James Bosman, Chair	2014
Roy Cohen	2016
James Cabral	2015 (resigned 7/25/13)
Andrea Llamas	2014
Tanya Campbell	2016
Robert Stone	2015
Elizabeth Bracchia	2015

FRANKLIN COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Stephanie Recore	2015
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HOUSING COMMITTEE

Pixie Holbrook, Chair	2013
Timothy Morgan	2014
Donna Crabtree	2014
Eve Endicott	2014
Nellie Ceazar	2013
Martha Conant	2015

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Heather Rose, Chair	2014 (resigned 6/30/13)
Donna Crabtree	2015
Susan Fentin	2014
Katherine Goodfield (Selectboard Appt.)	2015 (resigned 11/17/13)
Robert Stone (Finance Committee Appt.)	2016

Selectboard Appointments

	Term Expires
ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE	
Tom Spiro	(to 11/20/12)
AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT	
Jodey Benson, Director	2014
Christopher Herrmann, Asst. Director	2014
BOARD OF REGISTRARS	
Virginia Knowlton	2016
Aina Barten	2014
Lorraine Boyden	2014
Jack Ramey	2015
DOG OFFICER	
Joseph Colucci	2014
ELECTION OFFICERS	
Robert Corse	2014
Richard Dacey	2014
Sydney Ramey	2014
Deborah Craven	2014
Phylis Dacey	2014
Georgette Devine	2014
Edith Corse	2014
Winona Corse	2014
Natalie Whitcomb	2014
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	
Richard Bean, Director	2014
David Chichester, Asst. Director	2014
ENHANCED 911 COORDINATOR	
Robert Baker	2014
EMERGENCY DISPATCH REPRESENTATIVES (COUNTY)	
Robert Baker	2014
Jodey Benson	2014
Kenneth Ouimette	2014

FIRE CHIEF AND FIRE WARDEN

Robert Baker, Chief	2014
Ronald Hawkes, Deputy Chief	2014
Adam Baker, Deputy Chief	2014
Christopher Herrmann, Captain	2014
Robert Benson, Captain	2014
Matthew Boyden, Lieutenant	2014
Joseph Peramba, Lieutenant	2014
Robert Benson, Warden*	2014
*appointed by Fire Chief	

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

Ronald Sweet	2014
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POLICE CHIEF

Kenneth Ouimette	2014
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POLICE OFFICERS

Donald Bates	2014
James Bernier	2014
Christina Conklin	2014
Ronald D. Hawkes	2014
Nathan Jackman	2014
David Johnson	2014
Charles Wilder	2014
Randall Williams	2014

REGIONAL DOG OFFICER – FRANKLIN COUNTY

Leslie Colucci	2014
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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Edward MacDonald	(resigned)
Amanda Majewski-Winn	(resigned)
[Thomas Hutcheson	start date 8/12/13]

TOWN COUNSEL

John H. Fitzgibbon, Attorney at Law	2014
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TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

Janice Warner, Treasurer/Collector	2014
Lynn Kane, Asst. Treasurer/Collector	2014

VETERANS' AGENT

Leo Parent, Agent	2014
Mark Fitzpatrick, Agent	2014
Leroy Rose, Grave Officer	2014

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Natalie Whitcomb, Chair	2014 (resigned 6/24/13)
Jeanne Boyden	2014 (resigned 12/10/13)
Mark Silverman	2014

(John O'Rourke appointed 12/13/16; term ending 2016)

MEMBER, FRED WELLS TRUST

Kate Van Cort	2014
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FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Lynn Rubinstein	2015
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FRANKLIN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Alfred Barten	2014
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FRANKLIN REGIONAL PLANNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Strzegowski	2014
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BUILDING INSPECTORS (FRCOG)

James D. Hawkins	2014
James Cerone	2014

WIRING INSPECTOR (FRCOG)

Thomas McDonald	2014
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PLUMBING/GAS INSPECTOR (FRCOG)

Andrew French	2014
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Board of Health Appointments**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

Carle Nelke

term expires

2014

CLERK TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Virginia Knowlton	2014
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ANIMAL INSPECTOR (Barn Inspector)

Anthony Borton	2014
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ANIMAL INSPECTOR (Quarantine Officer)

Joseph Colucci	2014
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BURIAL AGENT

Virginia Knowlton	2014
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TRANSFER STATION ATTENDANTS

Leroy Rose	2014
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Leland Gray	2014
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James Wakefield	2014
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Standing Committees**250th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

Michelle Harris – chair	2013
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Kate Van Cort	2013
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Mike Haley	2013
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Lee Whitcomb	2013
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Malcolm Corse	2013
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David Barten	2013 (resigned 9/4/13)
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Elizabeth Braccia	2013
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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Vacant	
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COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Janet Chayes, chair (at large)	2016
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David Barten – vice chair (Planning Board)	2015
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Robert Anderson – secretary (Parks, Rec. & Trls.)	2014
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Marcelle Morgan (Open Space Comm.)	2014 (resigned 9/5/13)
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Eve Endicott (Housing Committee)	2014
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Malcolm Corse (Historical Committee)	2015
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Polly Byers (at large)	2015
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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John Gates, chair	2014
Marcelle Morgan	2016
Bruton Strange	2015
Dean Scudder	2014 (resigned 12/12/13)
Kathleen Goodfield	2015 (resigned 6/18/13)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Patricia Lynch, chair	2016
Diane Poland	2016
Julie Clark	2014
Winona Corse	2016
Margaret Tiley	2014
Vacancy	2015

CULTURAL COUNCIL

Kendall Clark, co-chair	2014
Amy Dryanski, co-chair	2014
Penny DeGeorge	2016
Karen Eldred	2016
Marcus McLaurin	2016
Matthew Hill	2014
Elaine Rogers	2015
Erica Wurtz	2015
Polly Byers	2015

ENERGY COMMITTEE

Richard Bean, chair	2014
Susan Bridge	2014
Michael Kurkulonis	2014
John O'Rourke	2014
Nelson Shifflet	2014
Natalie Whitcomb	2014 (resigned 6/24/13)
Peter Martin	2014
Peter Rosnick	2014

FESTIVAL OF THE HILLS COMMITTEE

Michelle Harris, chair	2015
Kate Van Cort	2013
Phyllis Jeswald	2015
Cindy Corey	2014
Diane Poland, Sec	2014
Vacancy	2015

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Sarah Williams, chair	2016
Cynthia Bluh	2016
Malcolm Corse	2014
Carl Darrow	2015
Mary Merriam	2016
Laura Nichols Shaw	2014
Vacancy	2015

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Tamblyn Borton, chair	2015
Jocelyn Forbush	2014
Michele Turre	2016

PARKS, RECREATION, & TRAILS COMMITTEE

David Beaudet, Chair	2016
Walter Goodridge – Trails	2016
Heidi Flanders	2014
Carol Kurkulonis, Secretary	2014
Craig Warner	2015
Jaclin Prusak	2016
Robert Anderson	2016

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Richard Bean	2014
Paul Mervine	2014
Roy Cohen	2014
Sue Siegel	2014
Marcus McLauren	2014

TOWN GARAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Kenneth Ouimette, chair	2014
Thomas McCarthy	2014
Thomas Hill	2014
Ronald Sweet	2014
Thomas Shaw	2014

BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Selectboard

In fiscal year 2013, the members of the Board of Selectmen were John P. O'Rourke, Chairman, Jim Moore, Clerk, and Rick Bean. The Town accomplished much during FY 2013 because of the great work of the Town staff and the many Town residents that volunteer to work on boards and committees that are essential to the efficient operation of the Town.

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Robin Sherman, Executive Director, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority reported that the Town had over \$703,000.00 in outstanding loans still due to the Town and mentioned a \$35,000.00 exemption. Ms. Sherman explained the new contract to the Board and mentioned that the Federal government changed some of the guidelines for the septic revolving loan program. The Board approved and signed a contract with the Housing and Rehabilitation Authority for their Revolving Loan Program.

Personnel Handbook Review

Heather Rose, Chair of the Personnel Committee explained that the Personnel Committee was presenting this draft to the Board for approval and asked for the Board's questions and/or comments. Heather went through the draft and highlighted changes made in the recent past by key stakeholders, including the Board. There was a discussion about nepotism in Town departments. John wanted a specific nepotism policy excluded as Conway is a small Town and that State law should be followed. Committee members suggested that it be applicable on a per-issue basis.

CORI requirements, the Grievance procedure and the new WISP policy were made part of the personnel handbook. The new Personnel Policy Handbook was approved as presented. The Board acknowledged and appreciated the past two years of work performed by the Personnel Committee.

Federal Aid Road Reimbursement

The Town received the Federal Aid Road reimbursement for work done during Tropical Storm Irene from FEMA. Highway Superintendent Baker did the required paperwork that Mass DOT requested for this reimbursement.

New Ambulance and Regionalization

The Board accepted the recommendation of Ambulance Director Jodey Benson and did not vote to join the towns of Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately in a Regional Ambulance Service. It was thought to be financially and operationally infeasible for Conway to join due to the specific needs of our Town including response time the need for response by 4-wheel drive ambulances.

The new ambulance RFP included the new requirements mandated by the State. The winning proposal was from New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus for \$99,825. An additional \$12,000 was spent on a "power cot". The new ambulance fulfills the specific operational requirements of Conway and public safety concerns of the Board.

The Board approved a request to cancel the old contract and request a new contract from Baystate raising the fee for ambulance runs to Baystate from \$350 to \$425.

Open Space Committee

The Board approved Tami Borton's nomination to the Open Space Committee, an ad hoc committee and the Open Space Committee. She also volunteered to help with the creation of the new master plan. The Board appointed her as a new member of the Open Space Committee and as a representative to the Open Space Regional Plan Update Committee.

New Police Vehicle

After a disappointing first round, the Board voted to conduct a second bid for a new police cruiser. On the second bid, the submission from Liberty Chevrolet in Wakefield, MA for a 2012 4-door Chevrolet Tahoe, less a trade-in, was \$27,490. Chief Ouimette reported that the vehicle met the requirements of the Town. The Board voted to accept the bid.

The Conway Community Pool

The Community Preservation Committee submitted an application for a Conservation Restriction (CR) to the State for the Conway Community Pool property as a first step toward restoration of the property and as part of the requirements for the Community Pool Committee to accept Town funding. With the assistance of Town Counsel, Jack Fitz-Gibbon, a payment agreement to bind Community Pool property and the Town in this transaction was reached. This allowed CPA funds for initial costs and to move the project to completion for the summer of 2015. The Community Pool Committee submitted a new payment agreement to the Board for signature that had been revised by them. The Board referred the new version to Town Counsel for review and approval. The Town Counsel addressed some

concerns and a final version of the grant agreement was drafted between the Town and the Community Pool Committee, Inc.

Annual maintenance of the Community Pool is expected to increase from \$400 to \$3,000. The Community Pool Committee requested that the Board consider the possibility of using one of the Germain Funds for this new expense.

The Board voted that a grant agreement, drafted by Town Counsel, be used if the grant was to be made prior to the State's approval of a Conservation Restriction on the Community Pool property, as required by acceptance of CPA funding for pool restoration project.

Later in the year, members of the Community Pool Committee made a presentation to the Board to request the consideration for funding from the M & M Germain Trust Fund for accessibility improvements for handicapped persons. The trust fund was set up to help needy handicapped children. The Community Pool Committee would like to establish programs for the handicapped. The recreational facility would be accessible to everyone. It would also be handicap accessible. The Board, as trustees of the Fund, agreed in principle that Germain funds could be used. The Board received confirmation from Town Counsel and from the Massachusetts Attorney General and conducted a straw vote of the residents at Town meeting before voting to allocate Germain Trust Fund to the project.

Roaring Brook Road Projects

Drainage work and paving on Roaring brook Road near the intersection of Whately Road was completed at a cost of \$160,000 in Chapter 90 funding. The Board voted to support this project.

Demolition of 37 Academy Hill Road

Four bids for demolition of 37 Academy Hill Road were submitted to the Board. The winning bidder was Moschetti & Sons from Templeton, MA at \$17,450. The Board voted to accept this bid and the dilapidated improvements were demolished. The Conservation Commission and the Highway Department coordinated to stabilize the soil by planting grass and putting down straw and straw bales to allow the grass to take root.

Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Public hearing was held regarding submission of a FY 2013 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Department of Housing and Community Development. Conway participated with Bernardston, Shutesbury and Sunderland in the CDBG. The grant funds assist activities for a Housing Rehabilitation Program and Meals on Wheels. Funds from this program are

to be directed towards low and very low income households. All potential recipients of CDGB monies must meet income need levels and is used in general to bring housing up to code. He said that Conway had three people on the waiting list. The cap on individual loans is \$30-\$35K. There are 13 homes being served locally that supports home bound people. The Board agreed that these are needed programs and voted in favor of the application of the CDBG.

Annual Tax Classification

Chair of the Board of Assessors, Natalie Whitcomb, Assessors Malcolm Corse and Russ French and Treasurer, Janice Warner petitioned the Board to approve a single tax rate for the Town. The Board agreed that a single tax rate for the Town is the best option for the Town and again voted to approve a single tax rate.

Historic Preservation Restriction and Accessibility Improvement

The United Congregational Church of Conway was granted a Historic Preservation Restriction. This restriction allowed CPA funding for historical preservation for the Church. The Board agreed with the historical preservation and voted to support the CPA funding that was later approved at the Annual Town meeting on May 14, 2012.

United Congregational Church Building Committee presented a plan to the Board to upgrade space and utility rooms in the Church to make them handicap accessible. Funds were requested from the Germain Fund to help support this project. The Board agreed in principle that this would be a good use of funds. Town Counsel was consulted and concurred.

Respectfully Submitted,
John P. O'Rourke, Chair

Board of Assessors

Conway's real estate market is showing some recovery in both the number of sales in 2013 and in the values realized. There were two new house starts in FY2013, and WMECO replaced a number of their high-tension towers and lines, which created New Growth on the tax rate for FY14. On the down side, the hydroelectric plant was seriously damaged in Hurricane Irene and has been unable to produce power since that storm, so there has been a temporary loss in value on that property. As usual, the bulletin boards in the Town Hall display Conway properties now on the market and recently sold.

We have talked with several vendors about hosting an informational website for property values and GIS access, as many towns are now doing. Legally, all of this information is public record, so can be offered on-line without restricted access, but our Board is very aware of privacy concerns and is considering the option of on-line

information without owners' names. We would appreciate your opinions on this matter.

Our only warrant article this year requests \$7,500 to be held for the FY2017 revaluation, which will begin on January 1, 2016.

Cyclical site visits will continue in the warmer months, focusing on the village center. These visits are both necessary and helpful, in maintaining current data in our records and in catching any data errors that might exist. Accurate and complete data is the basis of accurate and fair valuations.

The Assessors' section on the town website at townofconway.com has some general information and downloadable forms. As always, you are welcome to stop by our office in the Town Hall or contact us with questions or concerns regarding the assessing process, your valuations on real estate, personal property, motor vehicles, exemptions, abatements or any other assessing matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie H. Whitcomb, Chair

Malcolm J. Corse

Phone: 369-4235, x5

Russell A. French

Laura Hutt, Clerk

e-mail: assessors@townofconway.com

Board of Health

(This report is based on Calendar Year 2013)

ABOUT 85% OF THE FUNDS expended by the Board of Health each year are used in the management of the transfer station services including disposal of solid wastes, hazardous waste and recyclables; in other words, to provide town residents with a way to dispose of household waste.

A \$7,500 DEP grant for use in enhancing the recycling program was awarded to the town in 2013. A new paper compactor was purchased and installed at the transfer station and went into operation in November. The compactor is projected to reduce paper hauling fees and charges by more than \$7,000 per year.

For the past eight years (until July 2013), revenue generated by the recycling program has offset an average of about \$17,000 per year cost of operating the town's recycling program. Though your recycling efforts are still generating income, the funds are deposited directly to the town's general fund and are no longer available to offset the actual cost of the recycling program.

During the 2013 calendar year, residents produced 562 tons of combined compacted and bulky waste material, an increase of nearly 3 tons from last year's

totals. Additionally, nearly 270 tons of recyclable materials were shipped out of town or otherwise utilized, including 109 tons of paper (a decrease of nearly 20 tons from last year), 76 tons of mixed containers (a decrease of 5 tons from last year), scrap metal, tires, electronics, clothing, books, and other miscellaneous items estimated at about 55 tons.

Transfer station attendants deserve considerable credit for their efforts to encourage recycling and monitor the disposal of various materials. The BOH sincerely appreciates the dedication and commitment of the individuals that were part of the 2013 team - Butch Rose, Lee Gray and Jim Wakefield.

The BOH would also like to thank the volunteers that spend many hours organizing the items that move through the swap shop, a.k.a. the "Conway Mall". This community project has been very successful and a benefit to many town residents. It actually takes a bit of commitment from everyone using the facility.

The Board would also like to recognize our State appointed Animal Inspectors. The position in Conway is shared between Anthony Borton (Barn Inspector) and Joseph Colucci (quarantine officer). Mr. Colucci, who also serves as the town's dog officer, attended classes early in 2013 that provided an overview of new state regulations in animal control.

Local Boards of Health in Massachusetts are required by Commonwealth statutes and regulations to perform many important and crucial duties pertaining to the protection of public health, the control of disease, the promotion of sanitary living conditions and the protection of the environment from damage and pollution. The remaining 15% of the annual Board of Health budget covers a variety of different aspects the Board activities. including: supervision of Title 5 septic inspections, approval and inspection of new septic system installations; inspection of food establishments; ensuring that camp facilities comply with state regulations; investigating and reporting cases of communicable diseases; oversight of animal health issues; and working with state, regional and other local health officials to develop plans and resources to properly respond to public health emergencies.

The BOH continues to work with the Franklin Regional Council of Government to provide important public health nursing services. Lisa White, our town nurse, monitors infectious diseases (including investigations and the filing of required reports with the state), provides community education on a variety of health matters, helps residents connect with health and social services and develops special clinics to respond to important health needs. Lisa continues to hold open clinics at the town hall on the first Friday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Feedback suggests this is a very valuable resource for many residents.

Calendar year 2013 - Board of Health

Licenses & Permits Issued

Permit Type	# Issued
New Well Installation Permits	01
Septic Disposal System Construction Permits	08
Septic Installers Permits	03
Waste Haulers Permits	07
Recreational Camp Licenses	03
Annual Food Service Establishment Permits	06
Annual B & B Kitchen Permits	01
Temporary Food Establishment Permits	14
Residential Kitchen Permits	05
Wholesale Food Permit	01
Outdoor Hydronic Heater Permits	00
Swimming Pool Permit	00
Beaver Removal Permit	03

Tests and Inspections Conducted

Type of Inspection	# Issued
Percolation Tests – New Lots	06
Percolation Tests – Septic System Replacement	05
Septic System Installation Compliance Inspection	05
Property (Title 5) Septic Inspection	16
Other Septic Inspection	04
New Well Siting and Inspection Visits	01
Food Service/Establishment Inspection	40
Inspections and Follow-ups of Various type	06
Camp Inspection	03

Appointments

Barn Inspector	Anthony Borton
Animal Quarantine Officer	Joseph Colucci
Burial Agent & Clerk	Virginia Knowlton
Transfer Station Attendants	Leroy Rose
	Leland Gray
	James Wakefield
	Richard Ricker

The five-member Board has been short one member for the past two years. The four remaining members were very pleased to welcome Ann Gibson to the long-vacant position. She was officially appointed in early August 2013.

Members of the Board are grateful to the residents of Conway for their continued support and invite people to attend BOH meetings held every second and fourth

Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Nelke, Chair
William McLoughlin
Sue Bridge
Gina McNeely
Ann Gibson

Members, Conway Board of Health

Board of Registrars

ODD NUMBERED YEARS are usually quiet for the Board of Registrars. With two special state elections and two special town meetings in addition to the annual meeting and town election members of the board had their hands full with voter registrations, absentee ballot preparations and voter certifications. Extended voter registration sessions were held for each event, totaling 55 hours of special voter registration during which only 4 new voters actually registered at the town offices. This Board has continued to hold full last-day registration sessions before all meetings and elections for the convenience of residents who would prefer to register or make party changes in person. With so many options and opportunities to register and with a voter total that does not exceed 1500, our in-office registration hours could legally be reduced to 3 hours preceding each election and meeting.

Board members were also available to provide additional hours for petition drop-offs and monitoring check-in at town meetings. Registrars also certified signatures on more than 200 state and local petition and nomination forms. All in all, 2013 presented itself as an unusually busy year.

Forty-eight (48) new voters, most registering either by mail or through the RMV, were entered into the List of Voters during the year while 44 voters were removed from the list due to relocation or death bringing our total of active registered voters to 1,461 as of December 31, 2013.

- ◆ The count of active voters includes 574 Democrats, 148 Republicans, 721 voters with no party affiliation, 9 Libertarians, 8 Green Rainbows, and 1 voter of other political designation.
- ◆ About 30 changes including names, addresses and political parties were recorded among active voters.
- ◆ More than 25 voters submitted duplicate registrations through the RMV.
- ◆ An additional 38 voters were moved to the inactive list bringing that total to 84 voters by the end of the year. Inactive voters may be removed from the voter

list only in specific, clearly identified circumstances as described in Massachusetts General Laws chapter 51, section 38. The name of a voter cannot be deleted from the voter list unless: [1] the registrars have received a death certificate or death notice; [2] the registrars have received a duplicate copy of an affidavit of registration from another community; [3] the registrars have received a change of address notification from the registry of motor vehicles; [4] the registrars have received a written request from the voter; or [5] the voter has not responded to a written notice and has not voted in the next two biennial state elections following that written notice, and has been notified in writing of the pending removal.

Information for all town residents is maintained through the Voter Registration Information System (VRIS) by the town clerk. The Office of the Jury Commissioner has been using VRIS data to generate the annual jury list, reducing a small amount of paperwork at the town office. Since the actual duties and responsibilities for maintaining VRIS fall to the Town Clerk the impact on the Board of Registrars continues to be negligible.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia A. Knowlton, chairman
Lorraine Boyden
Aina Barten
Jack Ramey

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Act (CPA), adopted by Conway voters in 2004, established a special fund used just for: **open space and recreation; historic preservation; and community housing**. It is financed by a small surcharge on property taxes matched from a dedicated State Trust Fund. It provides a steady funding source for preserving and improving a community's character and quality of life. All projects are carefully reviewed by the Community Preservation Committee and require approval by Town Meeting. Ten percent of annual revenues must be used or reserved for each of the above categories; the remainder may be spent on any of the designated uses. Unspent monies accumulate in our local CPA Fund and earn interest for future projects.

2013 Highlights

A special Town Meeting on 3/18/13 approved \$100,000 for a **South River Restoration Project**. To reduce damage from flooding and erosion, it will reclaim a small floodplain on the Town-owned Rose field and install natural features in the

river. The appropriation was a required 40% local match under a MA DEP S.319 grant (with federal funds). We had to commit our share by April 1 or the grant award would have been withdrawn. The project is managed by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and is expected to begin in 2014.

Town Meeting on 5/13/13 approved two projects which are now underway.

Cemetery Inventory \$4,900: requested by the Historic Commission and endorsed by the Cemetery Association. This will cover all headstones in the Howland & Pine Grove Cemeteries, which were last inventoried in 1952. Digital records and photos of the gravestones will then belong to the Town and be available for historic research and education.

Affordable Senior Housing Site Analysis \$3,000: requested by the Housing Committee to determine if a small housing complex is feasible on the Town-owned Rose field.

Finances

A ballot question at the town election on May 15, 2014 will ask voters to approve an increase in the CPA property tax surcharge rate from 1.5% to 3% with an exemption for the first \$100,000 of property value. A warrant article at last year's Town Meeting passed – sending the question to the upcoming election. The change averages \$18 per household and is requested because it will generate **nearly three times the amount of matching state funds or \$44,000 — from \$26,000 to more than \$70,000 annually.**

HOW THE CPA SURCHARGE IS COMPUTED
(Based on *estimated* tax rate of 14.5, Feb. 2014)

	Current	Proposed
Median Assessed Home Value	\$ 274,500	274,500
Less Proposed Exemption		<u>(100,000)</u>
CPA Taxable Value	274,500	174,500
Tax Rate (per \$1000)	<u>X .00145</u>	<u>X .00145</u>
CPA Tax Basis	3,980	2,530
Surcharge Rate	<u>X 1.5%</u>	<u>X 3%</u>
Amount You Pay	60	76

WHY THIS IS A GOOD INVESTMENT

The formula that distributes state funds to communities which adopt the CPA at the maximum 3% favors small towns. All CPA communities receive a uniform share in the first distribution based on total state funds available. Those with the 3% rate benefit by becoming eligible for two extra rounds of distribution from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund each fall. The formula is weighted so that smaller and less affluent communities receive higher funding in the second and third

distributions.

In 2013 Conway's state match was 26.8% or \$14,214 due to our 1.5% rate. At the same time, several of our neighbors at 3% received 100% – among them Deerfield, Hatfield, Leverett, Sunderland, Whately, and Pelham.

This year the state increased funds for the first round distribution to 52% and we received \$26,277. **With a 3% rate we'd likely earn a 100% match (like our small town neighbors above) or \$70,000. The total increase from us would be just \$17,000. This is an excellent return on investment.**

EXEMPTIONS FOR LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

You don't have to pay if you're a homeowner whose income is less than 80% of the areawide median income. Income limits are determined by household size. For one person it's \$35,168; 2 people \$40,192; 3 people \$45,216 and 4 people \$50,240. Get applications from the Assessors Office or online at www.townofconway.com/admin/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/cp4-application.pdf.

APPROVED PROJECTS

Townpeople approved 14 projects from 2006 to 2013, with appropriations totaling \$464,882.

Amounts below are what's been spent or committed:

		Open Space & Recreation	Housing	Historic	
4/10/06	Cemetery Headstones			2,900	
4/10/06	Old Boyden School House Interior			9,087	
4/9/07	Tree & Limb Removal at Cemeteries			7,500	
4/14/08	Historic District Marker Signs			2,500	
4/13/09	Assessor Records			1,071	
4/12/10	Assessor Records			7,500	
4/12/10	Hist. Soc. Moisture Abatement			14,873	
9/27/11	Natural Roots Farm	31,000			

9/27/11	Totman Farm	45,750			
5/14/12	Preservation of Town Pool land	123,000			
5/14/12	Preservation of UC Church			100,000	
3/18/13	South River Restoration	100,000			
5/13/13	Cemetery Headstone Inventory			4,900	
5/13/13	Site Analysis: Senior Housing		3,000		
	Total	299,750	3,000	150,331	453,081
2005-14	Administrative Expenses				3,730
	Total				456,811

<u>CPA Revenue</u>	2005-13 Actual	2014 Estimate	Total	Less Costs	Balance
Local surcharge	427,496	53,000	480,496		
State trust fund	222,960	26,227	249,187		
Interest	<u>69,359</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>81,359</u>		
Total Revenue	719,815	91,227	811,042	456,811	\$354,231

Within the CPA Fund are reserves dedicated to each category. Any unspent monies from approved projects are returned to the appropriate reserve for future use.

Reserve Balances anticipated at June 30, 2014 are:

Historical	\$ 1,623
Open Space & Recreation	36,350
Housing	<u>71,726</u>

Total Dedicated Reserves \$ 109,699

The remaining undedicated portion of the fund is estimated at \$ 244,533. This money can be spent on any of the categories for projects citizens may choose.

Request for Projects

The Committee relies upon groups or individuals to propose projects for funding. Proposals can be submitted anytime for consideration and are reviewed on an "as-needed" basis. A short Pre-Proposal Request Form and the full Application Form are available on-line at: townofconway.com/committees/community-preservation/, and at the Town Office. Or contact any of the members below. Visit

www.communitypreservationcoalition.org for background and uses in other towns.

Committee Changes

After several years of diligent service, Marcelle Morgan resigned in 2013 with our gratitude for serving as the Conservation Commission's representative to the CPC. In February 2014 Peter Zale was appointed in her place. After his term expires in June 2014, David Barten will no longer be the Planning Board's representative. He will be greatly missed!

Respectfully Submitted, Janet Chayes—At-large, Chair 369-4697 janet@chayes.org
Malcolm Corse—Historical Commission; David Barten—Planning Board; Eve Endicott—Housing Committee; Polly Byers—At-large; Robert Anderson—Recreation & Trails Committee; Peter Zale—Conservation Commission

Conservation Commission

The Conway Conservation Commission (Con Com) works with the community to protect wetlands, rivers, and streams, to assume the role of steward for conservation restrictions on behalf of the Town. Our goal is to bring an environmental perspective to the ongoing dialogue about quality of life issues in Conway. As the local representative of the Commonwealth Department of Environmental Protection, we are also charged with the implementation of the Wetlands Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act. The goal of these laws is to protect and enhance the health of Conway's abundant, yet fragile natural resources and ecosystems.

It is the responsibility of the Con Com to make formal determinations for landowners and homeowners as to whether the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act or Rivers Act apply to their projects, and to work with them to balance their needs and rights with the requirements of the Acts. This process is done by the Con Com interpreting the regulations that have been promulgated by Massachusetts upon inquiry by citizens and land owners for a Request for Determination of Applicability of the Acts (RDA) or a Notice of Intent (NOI) to do work within a designated area of jurisdiction.

The Con Com consists of five members, volunteers who meet approximately twice a month (the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 at the Town Hall) depending on the workload, to review projects and assist landowners. Currently the five members are: Bruton Strange, Marcelle Morgan, Peter Zale, Robert Nowak (Associate Member), and John Gates, Chair.

The Con Com proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015 is \$1,229.

Over the next year the Con Com is seeking to become more involved with the issue of invasive plants and their impact on the environment in Conway. This is being done in conjunction with other Town Committees, such as the Open Space Committee and the Community Preservation Committee.

In 2013 the Con Com acted on 21 Requests for Determination of Applicability and 9 Notices of Intent. Two of the NOIs were major Town related projects: the Town Swimming Pool and the Town Recreational Field. In addition, the Con Com reviewed multiple Forest Cutting Plans and reviewed, or made site visits, for building permit applications.

Respectfully submitted,
John C. Gates
Chair, Conway Conservation Commission
February, 2014

Council on Aging

Every community throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a Council on Aging (COA), created by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs under Ch. 40, s.8B of the Massachusetts General Laws. The Conway COA is a group of volunteers who meet monthly to assess the needs of Conway's senior population and to plan programs to meet those needs. The council meets at 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Persons who are interested in or have concerns related to elder affairs are welcome to attend these open meetings.

As in past years, the COA continues to advocate for elders in the community.

Chief among the council's concerns is the health of elders. A bi-monthly foot screening is held at Town Hall, for which preregistration is required. In addition to conducting health screenings, the council maintains a collection of durable medical equipment, which residents are welcome to borrow.

A senior exercise class is held weekly between September and May. The aims of this class, which includes weight training, are to maintain flexibility, increase cardiovascular endurance, and build muscle strength. Each Monday from April through November a walking group takes easy walks around town.

Conway seniors who live alone and/or have special needs are visited each month by a Triad Officer. Meals on Wheels delivers meals to seniors who need this service. With the loss of the FRTA bus, the council has been working on the issue of providing transportation services to elders in this rural hilltown.

Social events have included spring and fall senior luncheons, held on the fourth Thursday of the month at Town Hall. Seniors have also enjoyed the annual summer picnic, held at the Conway Sportsmen's Club, and the Thanksgiving and holiday dinners, hosted by Ed and Mary Rose of the Holly Barn. Intergenerational activities have featured lunch with students at the Grammar School.

Notes on senior issues, concerns, and events are published each month in the UCC *Visitor*. The Senior Calendar provides a quick review of each month's activities.

Monies from a Formula Grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and a town grant underwrite the council's programs. Each fiscal year, the COA creates a budget that is sent to Elder Affairs as part of an application for the Formula Grant. At the end of the fiscal year, the COA files an annual report with Elder Affairs that includes statistics on the population served, the number of volunteers and volunteer hours, and specifics of the services provided to Conway elders.

The COA's goals for the coming year are to continue to support ongoing programs and to develop new programs to meet future needs.

The Conway COA is grateful to the townspeople and the town for the support given to all seniors and for the use of Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Ann Lynch, Chair
Julia Clark
Winona Corse
Patsy Kocot
Diane Poland
Margaret Tiley

Cultural Council

The Conway Cultural Council is a group of volunteers who oversee and administer a grant program funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Council members serve for three years. Current Conway Cultural Council Members are: Polly Byers, Kendall Clark, Amy Dryansky, Matthew Hill, Julie Petty and Elaine Rogers.

Grant funds are intended to support programs in the arts, humanities and sciences that benefit our community. The annual deadline for grant applications is October 15. The Council meets in November/December to review grant applications and funding decisions are made final in January, when they are approved by the state.

Our goal is to fund programs and events for our citizens that provide entertainment, education, and opportunities for creative growth. Our priority is to fund programs that include local artists, individuals and groups, and that directly impact our town. We also strive to serve a wide range of age groups, from the preschooler to senior citizens.

Funded programs for FY 2013 include theater, music, visual arts, natural sciences, and film. For the fiscal year of 2013 we awarded 12 out of 36 grant applications, for a total of \$5,606.

We welcome proposals for programs from Conway residents, especially local artists and organizations. We strongly encourage you to speak to one of the Council members if you have an idea for a program you'd like to see in our town or would like to submit a grant application.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Dryansky, Co-Chair

Festival of the Hills

The 2012 Festival of the Hills (FOH) started damp and by 2 p.m. turned down right wet. Did that stop the kids on the hill slide? No it did not, it made them go faster! Did it stop the Skillet Toss? No it did not; we just used a towel for the slippery hands and cast iron! Did it stop the Fried Dough, no...but the people did when they ate it all and we ran out! In 2010 I made a comment about the string of luck the Festival of the Hills (FOH) had had with weather. In 2011 and 2012 Mother Nature saw fit to remind us that we do in fact live in New England and need to knock on wood when we speak of 'lucky weather'.

This year's FOH took place on Sunday, September 30th, backing up due to the early arrival of Columbus Day Weekend. The weekend was kicked off in it's usual manner with the Deacon's pancake breakfast which was held at the Firehouse. If it were possible to leave there hungry, the FOH Saturday morning bake sale was in full swing in the center of town. It never ceases to amaze me, the wonderful bakers that we have walking amongst us, and they are greatly appreciated by our devoted set-up crew looking for the mid-morning snack and coffee break. Saturday is all about the food and if you were still hungry after pancakes AND baked goods, the Fireman's Auxiliary put together yet another fabulous Turkey dinner on Saturday night. This year they did it at the Grammar school and the necessary change of venue did not cause them to skip a single beat.

When Sunday actually rolled around, sprinkles and the threat of rain were in the air, but everyone showed up with good cheer and optimism that we would have yet

another great year, and we did! As I am writing, I am scanning the center of town with my mind's eye, and this is what I see: the Historical Society opens its doors for all to see and hear about the history of Conway, and the Fire and Police departments set up to ensure the safety of all festival goers. The Library is beautifully decorated and full of exhibits by local artists for everyone to come in and appreciate. The common across from the Town Hall is heating up with baked goods, fresh pressed apple cider and homemade cider donuts, the fried dough oil is sizzling and local authors are moving in to autograph and sell their work. Shouts and cheers can be heard as the kids start crossing the finish line from the road race while the adults will be coming in from the other direction. Strolling past the information booth I grab a FOH program with all the activities, times, sponsors, scholarship winners, a local story contribution, and to say "hi!" Into the Town Hall for exhibits, FOH raffle and candy sale is a must-do on my route. As I walk down the path to the ball field there are banners displaying the scholarship recipients from years past reminding me why we love to do this. Our new memorabilia tent with tee-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs, bags, ledge sitters, etc. welcome the folks walking out to "the field". Heading towards the smell of food and sound of music, the path opens up to live bands, lots of food choices, the massive craft tent, more exhibitors, wood splitting and skillet tossing competitions, petting zoo, birds of prey, racing pigeons and so many other exhibits! A huge sheet of plastic on the corner hill is covered with squealing kids sliding down and the hay maze is all about flying hay and ducking heads. The kid's tent has some serious face painting and games going on and everyone is eating pie. Our green presence and recycling team could be found all over the FOH and we saved "tons" of recyclables from going to the transfer station...a dirty job, well done and greatly appreciated.

At one o'clock the parade forms at Orchard Equipment. The high school bands are tuning up, the horses are getting antsy, the kids are excited, antique cars are revving up and everyone is getting into formation. At the head of the parade, I say a little prayer that the faces we will be seeing as we march down Main Street are smiling and happy that they came out for another year of the Festival of the Hills.

Every year the Festival's mission is to raise money to provide scholarships to graduating seniors. In June, we awarded nine scholarships totaling \$8,000 to the 2012 graduates. On behalf of the Festival Committee, we thank you very much for your continued support towards making this event a success.

Respectfully submitted by the Festival of the Hills Board:

Michelle Harris, Chair
Kate Vancourt
Cindy Corey
Phyllis Jeswald
Elizabeth Downie

Finance Committee

With the resignation in July 2013 of James Cabral, we are pleased to welcome the newest member to our team, Elizabeth Braccia. Elizabeth brings immense knowledge to the committee as she has worked as a Town Treasurer and Town Accountant.

The certified Free Cash as of 7/1/2013 is \$580,000. This is up from the previous year's \$380,000 in Free Cash due to some unspent article and grant closeouts. Without factoring in these one-time items, the Town's "newly generated" Free Cash at the end of FY13 is in line with best practices regarding Free Cash.

Like many other Towns, Conway continues to face the problem of rising expenses and decreasing state aid. Our team's goal is to help assist the Town combat large increases by better planning and communication. One way we help achieve this is by maintaining and monitoring the capital plan, which anticipates the replacement of Town vehicles and heavy machinery. By distributing these replacement costs over several years, it helps keep the Town's budget from increasing in a single year due to large capital purchases.

Back in September 2013, the four District Town's Boards of Selectmen and Finance Committees had a chance to meet with the Frontier Regional School Committee to discuss issues regarding the budgeting process, capital improvement process and K-6/K-12 regionalization. There was a lot of good discussion at this meeting and as a result various sub-committees were formed to explore specific areas in more detail (capital planning, regionalization, etc.). We hope to see lots of innovative ideas, discussions and potential solutions brought forth in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Tanya Campbell-Chair, Jim Bosman, Elizabeth Braccia, Roy Cohen, Andrea Llamas,
Robert Stone

Historical Commission

On Sunday afternoon, November 17, 2013, 97-year-old Helen Reed of Main Street was driven across the 1871 Burkeville Covered Bridge in Amanda Kantor's horse-drawn buggy to celebrate and inaugurate the re-opening of the renovated historic structure. The shod hooves of Kantor's horse Troubador echoed through the successfully preserved wooden bridge, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by the wheels of modern four-by-fours crossing above the South River for the first time since 1985, as an historic Conway landmark came back to life.

During the hurricane and flooding of 1938, Helen MacDonald Reed's family was forced out of her childhood home on River Street (on the bank of the South River abutting the hill across from the old shoeshop) when the foundation of the home was undermined. Floods like 1938's (which also damaged the covered bridge) and 1869's (which destroyed the 1837 bridge today's bridge replaced) are a primary reason why only three original 19th-century covered bridges remain in Massachusetts. Conway's is one of them, and has become the second to re-open (to year-round, two-way traffic) after an expensive renovation financed by state and federal taxpayers. The culmination of decades of effort preceding the 2004-2005 bridge renovation, and more years of post-renovation politics, was a letter dated May 3, 2013, from Alexander Bardow, MassDOT Highway Division Director of Bridges and Structures, formally notifying the town that the state "has determined the maximum load that the subject bridge may safely carry" to be 15 Tons.

With Conway Town Meeting voters (owners of the bridge), the Historical Commission, and local media pulling in tandem with Selectmen John O'Rourke, Jim Moore, and Rick Bean, a long-sought local objective was finally achieved over the resistance of state highway department leadership. We regret only that some of the most dedicated bridge restoration advocates, Eleanor Manwell and Alice Eldridge foremost among them, did not live to see that day.

In May, 2013, with the backing of the Conway Cemetery Association and Community Preservation Committee, Annual Town Meeting voters approved a \$4,900 Community Preservation Act (CPA) appropriation to fund the important gravestone inventory work we outlined in last year's annual report. That inventory work, being conducted by Peter Freisem of Old Cricket Hill Road at the Commission's request, has progressed steadily at Howland Cemetery through the first half of FY 2014. Several local volunteers have offered to help Peter extend the reach of the town historic preservation funding – offers for which the Commission is very grateful. We're planning to research whether the significant amount of perpetual care funds held in trust by the Selectmen for the seven smaller, town-owned cemeteries may be used to conduct the same sort of gravestone inventories there (in addition to typical graveyard maintenance work).

In FY 2013 the volunteer Historical Commission purchased its first computer – a \$184 used ThinkPad laptop – with our then-\$250 annual budget. Plans are underway to provide for temporary office space in the Town Hall gym for those without it. We look forward to taking advantage of that space, using donated and surplus furniture, to create a needed research area for the Commission.

On the topic of donations, the Historical Commission, in the name of the Town, was honored to be the recipient of a unique gift from James Lockett Dinsmore and his daughter Pamela Bistrek of Northfield in FY 2013: 14 original documents drawn-up in the years 1763-1838 (mostly Conway land deeds) that the Dinsmore family had retained and preserved for more than a hundred years – long after the death, on his birthday after a fall from his horse, of ancestor and Revolutionary War Captain Abel Dinsmore in 1803. On March 15, 2013, those documents were thoughtfully and generously transferred out of the family for the first time by Jim Dinsmore, as a gift to present and future inhabitants of Conway, and entrusted for permanent safekeeping to the Conway Historical Commission.

Commission member David Barten of Baptist Hill retired from service as of our September, 2013 meeting, we're sorry to say. The Town and Commission were fortunate to receive and learn from David's participation and creative input. During his six-year tenure on the Commission, Dave and his wife Aina together produced two significant publications documenting Conway history: A new Conway-focused biographical study of Marshall Field (in 2011 the Bartens very generously assigned the book's copyright to the citizens of Conway); and, in 2013, "Hill Town Chronicle," a social history based on decades of Conway news reporting in a regular, late 1800s newspaper column. These works will remain valuable, enlightening resources for the Commission, and others, for decades to come. (The Commission plans to use its now-\$400 annual budget to make copies of the latter, to enable its wider distribution.) Fortunately for us, Dave's knowledgeable perspective remains only a phone call away.

At this writing, Yulia Stone of Riversedge Drive has expressed an interest in filling the Commission's open seat, to pursue her passion for history; we thank Yulia for volunteering, and look forward to welcoming her.

Respectfully submitted,

David Barten (resigned, 9/2013)

Cynthia Bluh

Malcolm Corse

Carl Darrow

Mary Merriam

Laura Nicholls-Shaw

Sarah Williams, Chair

(Peter Freisem, Associate)

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee has had another active year, and is moving along with plans for a small housing project for seniors, sited on the Rose Parcel at the beginning of

Shelburne Falls Rd. At Town Meeting last April, we were given an additional \$3000 from Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, to obtain a conceptual design plan of the field, in order to see if a project of this nature was feasible. That, with prior money provided by the town, helped us to move forward.

We contracted with The Berkshire Design Group of Northampton, and, at their suggestion, preceded the analysis with perc testing of the land. The parcel passed perc quite well. Additionally, Stockman Associates completed a wetlands delineation of the parcel. The product from Berkshire Design is for a “footprint” of the project only, suggesting placement for buildings, access roads, parking and septic/leaching field.

As one can imagine, the site has many limitations, being near a river and impacted by several environmental restrictions. The usable space is small, close and at level with Shelburne Falls Rd. This will have little impact on the entire 10-acre piece. The Berkshire Design Group took all of the factors into consideration, and has concluded that this project is possible. They met with our committee at the end of January, and presented comprehensive illustrations of many aspects of the property including items such as wetlands, flood plain, topography and soil types. They also shared 4 options for site designs for the buildings, access roads, parking and septic area.

Considering our input and reactions, Berkshire Design Group returned with new suggestions. We met with the Planning Board to get their input as well. Once a single plan is decided upon, the Housing Committee will provide various forums for public response.

The site analysis suggests 12 units approximately 30’ back from Shelburne Falls Rd, just to the east of the small shed there. Fill will be required to build up the land, in order to place the units at street level. The result will likely be one-story structures with additional lower walkout level space for more units or other use, such as storage for the residents and/or a community space/senior center. Each unit is likely to be about 1000sf with a garage for each unit. Each unit will have the main living space on one level only. That would include kitchen, living, dining, bath, bedroom and a small extra room for guests/office/crafting space. Garage space will be at the living level. Access to the rest of the property would be available for recreation, agriculture, etc., as the Town sees fit.

In order to progress to our next phase, we will return to Town Meeting to request the use of more CPA funds to obtain a detailed architectural design. CPA funds are required to be, and have been set aside, for community housing.

In our discussions with community grant writers and housing authority personnel, we are reassured that we may stipulate that preference be given to residents of

Conway and those working in Conway, while still meeting federal guidelines of Fair Housing. We have used the senior project in Westhampton as a model, a town quite similar in size and demographic to ours. They originally built 8 units and the demand was so great that 8 more have recently been added. All residents have been from their town. Our units, like theirs, are intended for active seniors, capable of driving or being driven. It is not intended for people requiring assisted care.

Since the formation of the Housing Committee, 13 different properties have been considered. These have included houses to retrofit, as well as open or wooded land, owned by the town or needing to be purchased. The conclusion has been that new construction and using town-owned land is the wisest economic approach, and that being near the center of town will be of most benefit to our seniors, as reflected by the survey of seniors done at the outset of this project.

Respectfully submitted by:
Pixie Holbrook (Chair)
Donna Crabtree
Tim Morgan
Eve Endicott
Martha Conant

Respectfully Submitted,
Pixie Holbrook, Chair

Parks, Recreation, & Trails Committee

The Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee has had a tremendously productive year with respect to improving the recreational infrastructure in town. Warrant article 33 was approved at town meeting in 2012 to provide for the final engineering and permitting necessary to address the drainage and safety issues at the park. A MassWorks grant was applied for to provide a 100% non-matching funding and was awarded in the amount of \$997,521 in December of 2013. Construction is scheduled to begin in late May of 2014 and complete by the end of the year. Town meeting also provided funding to some long overdue cleanup at Memorial Park.

The committee is also responsible for the downtown skating rink and continues to be a huge success. The rink was used by hundreds of people from Conway and the surrounding towns. Feedback has been very favorable and the plan is to continue building it each year.

Respectfully,
David Beaudet, Chair
Carol Kurkulonis, Secretary
Craig Warner

Personnel Committee

The members of the Personnel Committee for FY 2013 were Heather Rose - chair, Donna Crabtree, Susan Fentin, Kathy Goodfield, and Robert Stone.

Under the able leadership of former Committee Chair, Heather Rose, the Personnel Committee completed its review and revision of the Town's Employee Handbook, incorporating comments and suggestions from a variety of sources within the Town government. This was the major accomplishment in 2013. In addition, the Committee participated in the decision regarding the hiring of the new Highway Superintendent, the hiring of the Town Administrator, and in one disciplinary decision, advising the Select Board on its options and best practices. Unfortunately, many members of the Committee have resigned, leaving only two town residents and one member of the Select Board as members. Efforts to recruit new members of the Committee have not been successful. There is a real question as to whether the composition of the current Committee meets the requirements established by the vote at Town Meeting that originally established the Committee.

The Town has contracted with a human resources consultant who will be evaluating the Town's human resources systems, which should provide a checklist for future work.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Fentin, on behalf of the remaining members of the Personnel Committee.

Planning Board

The Planning Board of five elected members was authorized at a Special Town Meeting in October, 2011. The first meeting of the board, elected in May, 2012, was held on June 14, 2012.

Members from May 2012 to May 2013 were: Diane Poland (Chair), Joe Strzegowski (Vice-Chair), David Barten (Clerk and CPC Representative), Mike Kurkulonis, and Kate Eugin-Moore.

Members from May 2013 to May 2014 were: Diane Poland (Chair), Joe Strzegowski (Vice-Chair), David Barten (Clerk and CPC Representative), Dave Chichester, and Mike Kurkulonis (resigned in September 2013). Mary McClintock was appointed in October 2013 to complete Mike Kurkulonis's term.

Meetings are held on the first and third Thursdays of every month, at 7:00PM at the Town Office.

Mission Statement:

The Planning Board is responsible for drafting, amending and modifying zoning bylaws, and granting Special Permits. It is charged with creating a Master Plan that forecasts the long-term needs of the town with respect to: housing, land use, economic development, environmental concerns, services and facilities, conservation and recreation. The Board will make studies, hold meetings, authorize technical research, prepare plans and develop proposals with regards to the future needs of the town.

The Board's priorities in 2012-2013 were to:

- 1) Review, revise, and complete the Master Plan.
- 2) Review and revise the Protective By-Laws, starting with revising Commercial Solar Panel Zoning by-law and clarifying the roles of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals regarding use variances and/or dimensional variances, and Special Permits vs. variances.
- 3) Review proposed/stalled capital projects. Current projects:
 - New Highway Garage
 - Siting for Safety Complex
 - Relocation of Town Offices
 - Renovation of Town Hall
- 4) Develop proposals to serve the future needs of the town, with particular emphasis on land use issues and infrastructure needs.
- 5) Additional projects include:
 - Disposition of the Shelburne Falls Road/former Rose property
 - Downtown waste treatment facility
 - Municipal water system
 - Downtown Master Plan to promote economic development
 - The Planning Board applied for a grant through FRCOG to assist with this project. A component of the project was to establish a Conway Business Association.

From July, 2012 to June, 2013, the Planning Board:

- 1) Conducted two site visits: The Buckland Waste Treatment facility in October, 2012, and identified the remains of the town-owned Sinclair Water Works in November, 2012.
- 2) Met with expert visitors at Planning Board meetings to discuss by-law revisions, housing, flood mitigation, and broadband services.
- 3) Met with procedural visitors about subdivision plans and Flagg Mountain.
- 4) Held an open forum in January 2013 to discuss use of the Shelburne Falls Road/former Rose property. As a result of that meeting, the Board authorized Stockman Associates to professionally delineate the wetland areas on the property.

- 5) Recommended that the Select Board approve the South River Flood Mitigation plan.
- 6) Completed, printed, and distributed a Master Plan focused on Sustainability.
- 7) Discussed plans for a new Highway Garage and use of the existing Highway Garage as a possible Safety Complex.
- 8) Met with FRCOG planner Peggy Sloan to develop revisions of Conway's Protective By-Laws, including a proposal to create a Village Center District, and to establish an official Town Zoning map.
- 9) Held a public hearing and proposed at May 2013 Town Meeting a one-year moratorium on siting of medical marijuana dispensaries to allow time for the town to develop regulations governing such facilities. The moratorium passed at May 2013 Town Meeting.
- 10) Attended the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative's Spring Conference in March 2013.

From July 2013 until February 2014, the Planning Board:

- 1) Worked on revisions to the Protective/Zoning By-Laws, including a new Use Table and sections on Home-Based Businesses and Cottage Industries. Gathered input from townspeople at an October 16 Informational meeting and February 27 Public Hearing. Decided not to include a Village Center District in the proposed revisions. Consulted with FRCOG planner Peggy Sloan on proposed changes. Prepared a draft of revised Protective/Zoning By-Laws to present at May 2014 Town Meeting.
- 2) Attended FRCOG information sessions about siting of medical marijuana dispensaries and possible by-laws governing such facilities. Decided to include medical marijuana facilities in the Use Table in proposed revisions to the Zoning By-Laws that will be presented at May 2014 Town Meeting
- 3) Discussed development of a "Non-Criminal Disposition" By-Law to create a system of fines for violation of By-Laws.
- 4) Reviewed the responsibilities and tasks of the Planning Board.
- 5) Met with the Housing Committee to review possible site plans for senior housing on the Shelburne Falls Road/former Rose property. As charged by the Select Board to make recommendations for use of former Rose property, voted to recommend senior housing as the primary use of the former Rose property.
- 6) Discussed downtown Conway's needs for sewer and water systems.
- 7) Attended information meetings about proposed federal designations related to forests and forestry in western Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Poland, Chair

250th Anniversary Committee – Sestercentennial

The '250 Committee' as we call it was formed in the fall of 2011 with the intention of getting the necessary jump start on what we see as being a big celebration of Conway's 250th anniversary. This celebration will take place over the course of the year 2017, with activities planned throughout. We started out by naming some of the main areas we thought were necessary to start as early as possible and asking folks to lead them. So far we have fund raising, parade, history and genealogy, and publicity. This event will take a group of volunteers that is continually forming.

In 2013 we had two events in our fundraising effort. The first was the Chesbro Challenge, named after Jack Chesbro who resided in Conway near the end of his life and is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. The Chesbro Challenge was an 'alternative' baseball game using unconventional implements swinging at not quite baseballs. In spite of the fact that it was about 100 degrees out, we had a great time and had a great showing from the town. While this event only netted about \$1,000, some of the expenses incurred were for items that will be used at future events. It was also our first year, the word is now out about how much fun it was, and hopefully it will not be 100 degrees this year! We also had fun honoring the Conway Mountain Mommas, a softball league that Conway had back in the 80's.

Our second event was a dinner on the covered bridge that had an Italian / mobster theme. The bridge was full and it was amazing just how many people showed up in costume and ready to 'play the part'. There was a catered Italian meal; the Godfather was playing on a TV screen, and we had a little friendly competition of reading old movie lines in ones best Brando-style delivery. This event netted \$1,200 and we were able to use supplies that had been purchased for other events from the past.

The genealogy committee is working on putting together a continuation of the town's history. Not only will those old families who stayed in Conway be featured, but also those members who left for the west. Because so much new information is being generated about all facets of the Town's history, an expanded history will provide a much more complete picture of the town than found in the published previous histories.

We continue to discuss the 250th and its scale. While we would like to have a 'huge' celebration, Conway has a small center of town, and we need to be creative with our use of space and resources. To give an example, the parade of 1967 started at the granite bridge up by Eldridge Road. This would mean that Rt. 116 would need be

closed/diverted for some time, and these are the things that we need to research the feasibility of. Another challenge has been trying to bridge the past with the present, remembering what the bicentennial was and how to incorporate some of that into this celebration, keeping tradition alive.

Sadly, David Barten had to leave the 250 committee as our secretary and member of the board. This is a position that we are working on filling. As with the Festival of the Hills, this entire event is a volunteer effort and we welcome new volunteers and new ideas.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Harris, Chair

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Financial

Accountant

Special Revenue Report June 30, 2013

	Beg Bal	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
MA Highway A/R-C291 FY05	-138,400.60	262,471.82	-124,071.22	0.00
Ambulance Reserve for Rcpts	117,081.65	46,547.36	-76,295.00	87,334.01
Dog Revolving Fund	1,988.78	940.50	-308.20	2,621.08
Recreation Revolving	1,797.71	80.00	0.00	1,877.71
Conservation Wetlands Fund	7,375.61	2,530.12	-192.31	9,713.42
Conservation Donations	2,087.86	0.00	0.00	2,087.86
Fire Donations	214.82	75.00	0.00	289.82
Police Donations Fund	3,750.88	150.00	0.00	3,900.88
Emergency Donations	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
Ambulance Donations	7,544.64	920.00	0.00	8,464.64
Cricket Hill Road	20,450.35	0.00	0.00	20,450.35
Road Machinery Earnings	28,120.17	0.00	-8,644.00	19,476.17
MWPAT	983.60	1,034.53	-2,018.13	0.00
Sale of Real Estate	84,695.07	0.00	0.00	84,695.07
U. S. Flag Fund	683.81	55.00	-228.80	510.01
Historical Commission	-91.22	0.00	0.00	-91.22
XMAS Tree Fund	300.43	0.00	0.00	300.43
Fitzgerald Bridge	930.55	0.00	0.00	930.55
Covered Bridge	400.54	0.00	0.00	400.54
Youth Fund	819.04	0.00	0.00	819.04
Delaborne	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00
Highlands Initiative	882.50	0.00	0.00	882.50
USDA/NRCS Grant	4,001.00	0.00	0.00	4,001.00
Septic Loan Paybacks	66,333.65	2,226.40	-589.70	67,970.35
Peg Access/Broadband	7,324.40	6,873.06	-7,781.79	6,415.67
Extended Polling Hours	906.00	0.00	0.00	906.00
Dispatch Map	-610.71	0.00	0.00	-610.71
Conway Trails	223.19	0.00	0.00	223.19
Community Preservation Act	523,156.84	77,302.88	-223,791.12	376,668.60

Dare Grant-Police	5,871.23	0.00	0.00	5,871.23
Comm Policing Grant	15,058.56	0.00	-1,372.63	13,685.93
Bulletproof Vest Grant	788.50	0.00	0.00	788.50
Watch your Car Grant	700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
Local Preparedness Grant	-42.00	0.00	0.00	-42.00
4 x 4 Tractor	-2,065.66	0.00	0.00	-2,065.66
FEMA Snow Emergency Funds	14,583.73	35,884.00	0.00	50,467.73
MEMA Grant	-130,312.30	264,071.70	-27.23	133,732.17
Council on Aging Grant	696.00	2,820.00	-2,466.00	1,050.00
Library State Aid	6,430.75	1,846.75	-2,121.84	6,155.66
Cultural Council	8,589.21	3,877.75	-8,075.60	4,391.36
Small Cities Grant	37,999.50	3,728.64	0.00	41,728.14
Alternative Energy Grant	614.73	0.00	0.00	614.73
Fire Equipment Grant	-15,930.16	0.00	0.00	-15,930.16
Master Plan Grant	1,645.00	0.00	0.00	1,645.00
DCR Fire Grant	236.00	0.00	0.00	236.00
EMPG 2011 Grant	0.00	0.00	-2,500.00	-2,500.00
EMPG 2010 Grant	-729.00	2,000.00	-1,270.50	0.50
DEP Grant (BOH)	-500.00	0.00	0.00	-500.00
Circuit Breaker	5,772.70	8,119.00	0.00	13,891.70
School Choice	46,599.32	165,428.00	-163,412.77	48,614.55
REAP Grants	-91.98	31,986.27	-31,421.35	472.94
Early Literacy	2,888.59	0.00	-2,888.59	0.00
SPED Assist	8,075.59	15,275.95	-24,690.79	-1,339.25
Wings Program	234,394.81	246,389.62	-289,431.65	191,352.78
Grant Funded Teachers Stipends	0.00	2,100.00	-2,100.00	0.00
Kindergarten Grant	-1,326.35	8,781.72	-7,455.37	0.00
Erate Reimb School	7,421.09	0.00	-7,225.50	195.59
ARRA Idea Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Child/Adult FDC	1,471.17	0.00	0.00	1,471.17
Ed Jobs Grant FY 12	1.45	0.00	-1.45	0.00
Summer Wings Program	15,217.87	10,974.48	-14,717.00	11,475.35
Title 1 Grant	0.00	4,800.00	-4,800.00	0.00
After School Program	52,207.82	61,848.98	-53,369.83	60,686.97
Early Childhood Tuition	38,488.14	37,618.84	-25,000.00	51,106.98
School Lunch	-1,773.59	55,456.45	-57,484.31	-3,801.45
Nature's Classroom	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5th Grade Fundraiser	287.25	0.00	0.00	287.25
Fournier School Fund	2,822.36	0.00	0.00	2,822.36
School Roof	-226,410.01	305,528.00	-14,218.50	64,899.49

Sumner Boyden Trust	88,605.50	3,640.97	-666.66	91,579.81
Cemetery Perpetual Care	29,832.86	0.00	-3,916.25	25,916.61
Guilford Trust	804,724.92	16,714.18	0.00	821,439.10
G. Howland Trust	15,042.72	619.64	0.00	15,662.36
A & E Boice/Germain Fund	20,684.75	561.78	-7,828.74	13,417.79
Whiting Street Fund	17,137.11	705.92	0.00	17,843.03
S.F. Howland Trust	11,158.25	453.00	-185.46	11,425.79
Sale of Lots	9,477.38	390.41	0.00	9,867.79
M & M Germain	795,801.76	31,715.86	-27,999.38	799,518.24
M. B. Germain	58,117.96	1,761.39	-23,718.43	36,160.92
M. H. Germain	86,284.06	3,638.37	87.81	90,010.24
Joshua Boyden	7,521.55	309.84	0.00	7,831.39
Arabelle Turner	417.88	17.22	0.00	435.10
D O Paul	13,086.04	539.03	0.00	13,625.07
C & F Field	9,610.60	395.87	0.00	10,006.47
W E Tucker	835.70	34.41	0.00	870.11
E C Glazier	417.89	17.23	0.00	435.12
S. Bradford	417.89	17.23	0.00	435.12
Emery Field	835.75	34.41	0.00	870.16
General Stabilization Fund	307,403.29	60,713.46	-90,000.00	278,116.75
Ambulance Stabilization	101,947.12	56,228.69	-120,000.00	38,175.81
Capital Stabilization	209,335.78	131,526.44	-170,000.00	170,862.22
Garage Stabilization	397,163.91	121,232.16	0.00	518,396.07
Grammar School Stabilization	0.00	52,428.51	0.00	52,428.51
Retirees Health Ins	21,645.85	73,420.89	-66,408.74	28,658.00
Off Duty Police Detail	3,680.00	15,151.50	-18,431.50	400.00
Firearm ID Cards	-6,583.75	7,350.00	-5,400.00	-4,633.75
Fire Dept Fees	250.00	1,485.00	-1,830.00	-95.00
Town Clerk Fees	0.00	117.50	0.00	117.50
BOH Fees	3,997.14	3,250.00	-3,981.00	3,266.14
Deputy Collector	-1,097.50	6,760.00	-6,752.00	-1,089.50

General Fund Revenues:

	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>YTD Revenues</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Real Estate Taxes	3,447,472.95	3,402,649.64	-44,823.31
Tax Liens Redeemed	0.00	21,373.41	21,373.41

Motor Vehicle Excise	175,000.00	191,022.40	16,022.40
Pen & Int on Taxes	15,000.00	18,706.61	3,706.61
Pmts in Lieu of Taxes	0.00	1,392.46	1,392.46
Fees	15,000.00	24,689.95	9,689.95
Licenses & Permits	4,000.00	7,777.50	3,777.50
Intergovernmental	783,910.00	780,502.00	-3,408.00
Fines & Forfeitures	2,000.00	2,555.00	555.00
Rentals	0.00	900.00	900.00
Earnings on Investments	5,000.00	10,560.76	5,560.76
Miscellaneous Revenue	0.00	173,240.69	173,240.69
Tr Fr Special Revenue	111,632.00	111,632.00	0.00
Tr Fr Stabilization	380,000.00	380,000.00	0.00
<u>Total Revenue</u>	4,939,014.95	5,127,002.42	187,987.47

General Fund Expenditures:

	<u>FY13 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Expenditures</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Moderator	350.00	350.00	0.00
General Government	679,889.56	504,922.57	174,966.99
Public Safety	391,626.42	233,535.35	158,091.07
Education	2,745,650.03	2,736,598.46	9,051.57
Public Works	726,131.00	716,500.60	9,630.40
Health & Human Services	178,553.00	128,170.83	50,382.17
Culture & Recreation	169,612.00	123,281.68	46,330.32
Frontier Capital Improvement Bond	31,887.00	31,887.00	0.00
Debt Service	39,090.49	39,090.49	0.00
Air Pollution District	561.00	561.00	0.00
Intergovernmental	149,904.00	105,153.78	44,750.22
Employee Benefits	516,393.00	483,836.84	32,556.16
Tfr to Stabilization	375,000.00	375,000.00	0.00
<u>Total Expenses</u>	<u>5,971,849.50</u>	<u>5,446,090.60</u>	<u>525,758.90</u>

Tax Collector

Tax Collector office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm.

Taxpayers can make their payments online, by mail or in person. Online payments can be made for current tax bills only using the tax bill payment option on the

town's website, www.townofconway.com . Feel free to contact our office for any questions or concerns you may have.

Eleven new Tax Title liens (filed at the Franklin County Registry of deeds) were placed on delinquent accounts, thus securing the Town's interest in the collection of these taxes. These properties cannot be sold without satisfying the current tax amounts.

This year's outstanding tax total is significantly lower than last year by \$23,000. By exercising timely, legal, fair and predictable collection methods, there are fewer delinquencies.

FY14 Information

Due to an unexpected employee illness, Assessor's property re-evaluations were not completed in time for the November 2013 bill and preliminary Real Estate bills were issued for the first half, due on November 1, 2013. Final FY14 bills will be issued on April 1, 2014 and due on May 1, 2014. In order to fund the operating budget that was approved at annual town meeting in May of 2013, Conway needed to raise approximately \$350,000 more in taxes this fiscal year than last. This is an increase of approximately 10% (if property values remain similar) that will be fully realized in the spring bill. Please note that the 2.5% tax increase limit defined in Proposition 2½ applies to the Town's Levy Limit, not your actual tax bill. For multiple years, the Town has not approached the actual Levy Limit, thus allowing for additional levy capacity.

(continued below)

Tax Balance as of June 30, 2013

Description	Beginning Balance	Commitments	Payments and Adjustments	Ending Balance
2013 Total	0	3,703,045	3,617,969	85,076
2013 Real Estate	0	3,392,606	3,315,817	76,789
2013 Personal Property	0	86,772	86,155	617
2013 Excise	0	172,778	165,933	6,845
2013 CPF	0	50,889	50,064	825
2012 Total	87,391	18,055	100,776	4,671
2012 Real Estate	71,303	0	71,135	168
2012 Personal Property	2,908	0	1,205	1,703
2012 Excise	12,358	18,055	27,613	2,800
2012 CPF	823	0	823	0
2011 Total	8,346	0	5,733	2,613
2011 Real Estate	3,723	0	3,705	18
2011 Personal Property	1,147	0	50	1,097
2011 Excise	3,468	0	1,970	1,498
2011 CPF	8	0	8	0
2010/prior Total	14,897	0	1,759	13,138
Personal Property	10,841	0	1,415	9,426
Excise	4,056	0	344	3,712
Grand Totals	110,634	3,722,045	3,392,071	105,498

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Warner
Treasurer/Tax Collector

Treasurer

Treasurer office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm. Feel free to contact our office for any questions or concerns you may have.

The Treasurer's office reports general fund interest earnings of \$10,820 this year; relatively similar to that of last year, \$10,650. Some stabilization and Community Preservation Funds (CPF) have been utilized, but we continue to save for the future. Our Trust Funds have also been utilized. Our reported average investment earnings were 5.2% this year, an increase from 3.2% last year.

Two Tax Foreclosures were completed in FY13 and were sold in FY14 at public auction along with foreclosed on last year. The gross receipt for the Tax Sale was \$131,500. Although much of this amount was due in taxes, interest and fees, the entire amount is turned over to the General Fund and contributes to next year's Free Cash amount. Certified Free Cash amounts are available for expenditure by town vote.

Employee health insurance rates remain the same once again with no change in coverage. We are members of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust. The trust rates are compared annually to the Massachusetts Group Insurance Commission benchmark, and continue to provide the best solution for Conway's employee insurance benefits.

Allocation of General Funds by Bank Accounts				
Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2013				
Bank	Beginning Balance	expense/ receipt	Interest Received	Ending Balance
Greenfield Savings Bank	1,756,487	(1,291,289)	8,519	473,717
Peoples United Bank	92,818	1,672	232	94,722
Unibank	506,255	1,338,024	2,060	1,846,339
Country Bank for Savings	8,871	(4,476)	9	4,404
Total	2,364,431	43,932	10,820	2,419,183
Invested Funds	Beginning Balance	expense/ receipt	Interest & Real Gain/loss	Ending Balance
Trust Funds*	2,391,989	(376,912)	40,039	2,055,117
CPF*	209,336	134,658	9,332	353,326
Stabilization*	1,085,850	58,394	22,657	1,166,901
Total Abbey Capital / Investors Capital	3,687,175	(183,860)	72,028	3,575,343
*Please note that these are bank balance only and do not include 4th quarter transfers to/from the general fund				

Tax Title				
Description	Beginning Balance	Additions	Payments and Adjustments	Outstanding Balance
Real Estate	48,033	48,758	(42,416)	54,375
Community Preservation Fund	546	700	(624)	622
Total	48,579	49,458	(43,040)	54,996

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Warner
Treasurer/Tax Collector

Public Safety

Ambulance

The new ambulance arrived in late October, a little late but well worth it. We are still getting used to it but the feedback from the EMT’s is that they are all very happy with the Dodge Chassis. We are in the middle of the state changing over to a new licensing format for all EMT’s; it is a bit more time consuming for all of us but all 7 EMT’s due to relicense this year have completed to process. Our call volume is up from previous years, but our revenue is down due to decreasing reimbursements from Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance companies.

I would like to thank all 10 of the towns EMT’s for their continued dedication in providing needed emergency services to the residents of Conway.

Jodey Benson,
Ambulance Director

Emergency Management

A year without a hurricane is a good thing.

Unlike last year, with Hurricane Irene visiting Conway with major flooding and roadway destruction, this season was a quiet one. Though not pressed into service this year, Conway’s Emergency Management Team was at the ready. As Emergency Management Director (EMD), I am responsible for organizing Conway’s response to any emergencies, both natural and man-made. Such emergencies include hurricanes, tornados, major winter storms, dam failures, chemical or nuclear

accidents. Planning for these possible incidents is ongoing, and includes coordination with federal, state and regional agencies. But the most important planning takes place at the local level with many Conway volunteers. Here are some of your neighbors who are helping in this effort –

- *Dave Chichester, Deputy EMD, compiled Conway’s Emergency Operations Manual, and oversees our Emergency Alert System (EAS).

- *Our Emergency Shelter Team – Mary McClintock, Meg Burch, Joan Haley, Leslie Colucci, Bruce and Jeanne Jouannet, and Gina McNeely, plan and operate our local shelter at the grammar school.

- *Our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Team – Rick Bean, Dave Chichester, Bob Baker, Sue Bridge, Diane Poland, John O’Rourke, coordinate our emergency response from the Emergency Operations Center, also located at the grammar school.

In addition, our boots on the ground include Ambulance, Police, Fire, Fire Auxiliary, and Highway personnel. Thanks, also, to Principal Judy Siciliano and the school staff, who have been very supportive of our emergency shelter and emergency operations center, both located at the grammar school.

Preparation and planning are key to Emergency Management. Knowing that hurricanes and major winter storms can bring widespread power outages, back-up power generation is important. Through a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) grant, a back-up generator for the Town Hall is now in place. Be Prepared - a good motto.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns, or **you want to help in our efforts**, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Bean, Emergency Management Director
413-625-8207 (h) or 413-775-3188 (cell)
emd@townofconway.com

Fire

To the citizens of Conway I hereby submit my thirty-fourth annual report of the Fire Department.

This past year our department responded to 57 calls consisting of:

Motor Vehicle Accident	12
Mutual Aid	6
Wires Down	12
Structure Fires	2

Assist Ambulance	1
Chimney Fires	3
Smoke/co Alarms	6
Brush Fires	1
Vehicle Fires	4
Search & Rescue	2
Misc. Calls	8

This year we were able to purchase a used Air Compressor from the Adams Fire Department at a very discounted price of \$1000.00. This Compressor is used to refill all our breathing air tanks. The total savings to our town was about \$12,000.00 from the cost of a new compressor. Thank you Bob Benson for finding us this used compressor!

I would like to thank the citizens of Conway for supporting myself and Deputy Chief Ronald Hawkes by voting to have us continue to work on the fire department after our age of 65.

I would also like to thank the Fire, EMT, Police, Ladies Auxiliary, and the town residents for your support throughout the year.

Chief Robert Baker
DPT. Chief Ronald Hawkes
DPT. Chief Adam Baker
CAPT. Cristopher Herrmann
CAPT. Robert Benson
LIEUT. Mathew Boyden
LIEUT. Joseph Peramba

Yours First in Fire Safety,
Robert Baker
Fire Chief

Police

Community

On behalf of the Conway Police Department I am pleased to report the activity for the police department in 2013. The continued decline in illegal break-ins, down nearly thirty nine percent is the most significant statistic to report. However, to offset those encouraging statistics it is important to note the sixty one percent increase in motor vehicle citations. This dramatic increase is largely due to stepped up traffic monitoring due to residents rightfully concerned about the excessive speed of vehicles on their streets.

We continue to offer a variety of community-oriented and personal safety programs. These programs include RAD for women, a personal safety class that empowers the individual through physical defense, awareness and avoidance techniques. This program is available through a strong working collaboration with the Whately Police Department, the Franklin County Sheriff's Department and this year the Deerfield Police Department. Conducting these classes are a truly rewarding experience for all of those involved—students, faculty, and instructors. These classes are available at basic or advanced levels. We also have instructors certified to teach a keychain defense system, as well as RAD for kids.

We also continue to offer Firearms Training Classes. This is a state mandated safety training class for any new applicant wishing to obtain a License to Carry Firearms or a Firearms Identification Card, but is also useful to individuals wishing to update their knowledge regarding legal issues or safe handling of firearms.

Due to logistical issues we were unable to conduct our Annual Parent / Youth Day; however we expect to resume this event in 2014. Through a strong collaboration with the Conway Sportsman's Club, we successfully sponsored our fifteenth annual week long Summer Youth Program. Programs such as these continue to be successful due to the tremendous work of the twenty eight volunteers comprised of dedicated members of The Conway Sportsman's Club and other members of the community. The Youth Summer Program enrolled thirty four youths, participating in a variety of outdoor activities emphasizing education and safety. Our activities for the week included archery, fly-tying and casting, hiking, scuba diving, snorkeling, small-bore target shooting, and sporting clays. All of these activities were held at the Conway Sportsman's Club.

On behalf of the Conway Police Dept. and the kids that took part I would like to thank the volunteers from The Conway Sportsman's Club, the instructors and the parents who gave so generously of their time the entire week to educate the youth of our community. Your commitments are what make the week such a success.

Statistics

The following listed items required Conway Police involvement:

Motor Vehicle Accidents	40
Breaking and Entering	8
Vandalism	5
911 Calls	35
Burglar Alarms	25
Animal Complaints	19
Motor Vehicle Citations	140

Larceny	3
Disturbances	21
Arrests	7
Public Safety Hazards	39
Summons/Restraining Orders	14
Class A License to Carry Firearms	105
Class E License to Carry Firearms	1
Firearms I.D. Card	8
Assorted Calls & Complaints	390

The Conway Police Department invites and welcomes community input. We are open to all that may be interested in attending or volunteering at the many community projects that we engage in annually. I would like to thank my officers for their dedication and support to the community. They include Ron Hawkes, Randall Williams, Christina Conklin, Charles Wilder, Nathan Jackman, James Bernier, Donald Bates and David Johnson.

On behalf of the entire Conway Police Department I would like to say THANK-YOU to the people of the Town Office, Massachusetts State Police, and The Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, Shelburne Control, the staff at the Conway Grammar School, The Conway Sportsman’s Club, and the numerous volunteers who continue to give so much of themselves.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenneth D. Ouimette
Chief of Police

Public Works

Highway

In January 2013, Robert Baker retired as Highway Superintendent after nearly 20 years; we wish him well in retirement.

For FY13 our major project was drainage and paving a section of Roaring Brook Road on the Whately Road end, which was paid from Chapter 90 monies. Fall and winter brought a lot of heavy rains which washed out the edges of many roads. In the spring we started repairing the washouts and edging alongside the roads to get the water off the roads and to the drains. We’re also working to identify all of our culvert pipes to determine if they need replacement and clean the inlet and outlets to keep water away from roads. This will be an ongoing project.

Planned new projects for FY14: snow removal from sidewalks and roadside mowing in-house.

I would like to thank the people who take the time to help out (cleaning debris and snow from catch basins and culverts, tree branches and sometimes trees and etc.). I also want to thank the Highway Crew for their hard work in keeping Conway's roads safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Sweet
Highway Superintendent (appointed April 2013)

Town Clerk

THERE IS NO clearly defined job description for the Town Clerk. The official duties and responsibilities of the office are tucked away in more than 73 Chapters and 451 Sections of the Massachusetts General Laws, in town bylaws, and in the dictates of custom and practice of the town. Laws governing the activities of the Clerk are in a constant state of fluctuation. The office is a convenient dumping ground for anything that doesn't fit into a neat niche elsewhere in town government. The Massachusetts General Court frequently adds to the duties, complexities, problems, authority and responsibility of the Town Clerk and then subjects Clerks to the possibility of hefty fines and jail terms for failure to perform.

On 01 November 2013 I entered my 35th year of service to the town of Conway. I find that I have shared the office with at least 12 different selectmen, 10 treasurers, 8 collectors, and 10 individuals who served in the capacity of what is currently the position of Town Administrator. Each time a new individual has joined the staff, there has been a sudden realization that the duties and responsibilities of the position are more than they seemed at the surface. The office of Town Clerk has not had the benefit of such scrutiny, there having been only 19 different Clerk's in the town's 246 years.

When one does the same job for multiple years, reflecting upon the changes that have occurred during that time is sometimes an eye-opening experience. In 1979 the town passed an operating budget of \$575,778.30. In 2013, the operating budget was \$4,775,743.00. But it is the population of the town, not the budget that has the most dramatic impact on the duties of the Town Clerk. More people, more voters, more dogs – each category has more than doubled since 1979. Combined with related changes in the law, the time commitment required of the Clerk has increased proportionately.

Though the total population has not changed significantly in the past 10 years, it has become. The number of people over the age of 55 years has increased by 281 people while the number of youngsters under the age of 18 has decreased by 134, producing the following statistics for 2013:

- 742 residents were over the age of 55 years;
- 326 were 18 years of age and younger.

Over the same period, the number of registered voters in Conway has increased by about 125. On 31 December 2013, the total number of active registered voters was 1461. Coordinating two special state elections, two special town meetings in addition to the annual town caucus, town meeting and town election with related voter registration sessions the supervision of the AutoMARK and oversight of petition and nomination certifications in addition to the clerk's regular responsibilities made for an exceptionally busy calendar year 2013 in the Town Clerk's office. Voter Lists were prepared, updated and copied over and over again.

Among the less visible activities in the Conway clerk's office for 2013 were the following:

- More than 50 copies of the State "Open Meeting Law" were distributed and a large number of reminders of the importance of filing meeting notices with the clerk were issued;
- Changes to the Open Meeting Law heightened awareness of local boards and committees and more than 1,000 public meeting notices were recorded and posted in accordance with the law;
- A total of 67 elected and appointed officials received the oath of office (any person elected, appointed or reappointed to any town board of committee must be sworn to their duties by the town clerk and are not in compliance with the Conflict of Interest laws);
- Thirteen new business certificates were issued;
- Fourteen resignations were received, recorded and forwarded as required by law;
- More than 30 copies of the "Conflict of Interest Law" and the certification requirements were distributed and 23 certificates from the mandatory on-line training were received and recorded prior to the end of the year;
- More than 200 letters were written and mailed to individual voters to confirm registrations or to advise of changes in voting status, etc.
- An undetermined number of forms, certifications and letters were written on behalf of the town and dozens of certified copies from town records were issued;
- Assistance was provided to applicants in a variety of different cases associated with records maintained through the Clerk's Office and the Town Offices in general.

2013 Deaths Recorded in Conway

DATE	NAME AND PLACE OF DISPOSITION	AGE
January		
02	Mary Toombs Waddell Pye	88 yrs
	Disposition at Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge	
05	Ronald J. Holhut	50 yrs
	Disposition at Eternal Blessings Crematory,	

	Guilford VT	
06	Klaus Postler	61 yrs
	Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield	
February		
14	Willard H. Thayer	75 yrs
	Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield	
March		
28	Stella J. Kari	90 yrs
	Disposition at Greenbower Cemetery, Gardner	
June		
02	Norman T. French	94 yrs
	Disposition at Eternal Blessings Crematory, Guilford VT	
08	Faye M. Allis	65 yrs
	Disposition at Eternal Blessings Crematory, Guilford VT	
July		
01	Edith M. Chase	98 yrs
	Disposition at Eastside Cemetery, Chataugay, NY	
September		
03	Maxine M. Mercure	75 yrs
	Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield	
October		
05	David D. Brooks	66 yrs
	Disposition at Springfield Crematory, Springfield	
November		
01	Rachel L. Kelley	94 yrs
	Disposition at East Hawley Cemetery, Hawley	
06	Linda B. Barten	64 yrs
	Disposition at Howland Cemetery, Conway	

2013 Marriages Recorded in Conway

DATE	PARTIES and RESIDENCE	PLACE
May		
18	Mark Wayne Guilford of Conway and Mary Lynn Jones of Conway	Conway
June		
09	William Thomas Cote of Conway and Rachael Sarah Smith of Conway	Wellfleet
August		
10	Michael John Currie of Greenfield and Alexandra Marie Sacco of Greenfield	Conway
September		
05	Susan L. Kindwall of Conway and	Greenfield

	Annie M. LaPensee of Conway	
October		
	Russell French of Conway and	<i>incomplete</i>
	Kate VanCort of Conway	<i>data</i>
December		
21	Caleb Joseph Parker of Conway and	Conway
	Gina Marie Bianchi of Conway	

2013 Dog Licenses Issued in Conway

STATE LAW requires that all dogs in the state be registered annually. In addition to requiring registration, the state law requires veterinarians to forward lists of all dogs receiving rabies vaccinations to appropriate town clerks. The Conway dog list is current and fairly accurate with 584 listed animals. At the close of the year, only 230 licenses had been issued.

The discrepancy between the numbers of dogs listed by owner and the number of dogs that are actually registered in Conway continues to increase. There were 32 more dogs and 11 fewer registrations in 2013 than in 2012. Because the Town Clerk is only a record keeper and has no power to enforce the laws, this inconsistency is not likely to change in the immediate future.

CLASS	PRICE	# ISSUED	TOTAL VALUE
Male	\$3.00	96	\$288.00
Female	\$6.00	12	\$72.00
Spayed Female	\$3.00	116	\$348.00
Kennel [4 dog maximum]	\$10.00	4	\$40.00
Kennel [10 dog maximum]	\$25.00	1	\$25.00
Kennel [more than 10 dogs]	\$25.00	1	\$50.00
		230	\$823.00

TOTAL NUMBER OF LICENSES ISSUED	230
TOTAL VALUE OF LICENSES ISSUED	\$ 823.00
FEES RETAINED BY TOWN CLERK	\$ 172.00
AMOUNT RETURNED TO TREASURER	\$ 650.50

Thank you to everyone who has made the position of Town Clerk an interesting challenge over the past 34 years.

Respectfully submitted,
VIRGINIA A. KNOWLTON
Town Clerk

{Town Clerk's Report is based on Calendar Year –
1 January through 31 December 2013}

SCHOOL REPORTS

Conway Grammar School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

OPENING STATEMENT

I am honored to serve as Superintendent of the Frontier Regional and Union #38 School Districts. Faculty and staff at Conway Grammar School work tirelessly to encourage and inspire and to provide meaningful and engaging learning experiences for their students each day. We appreciate the ongoing support the Conway community offers the school as we educate students and prepare them for successful citizenship in the 21st century.

ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL CHOICE

The October 1, 2013 enrollment for Conway Grammar School totaled 171 (PreK-6) students. This is a decrease of 5 students from the October 1, 2012 (PreK-6) enrollment figures of 176 students. Of those 171 (PreK-6) students, 18 were School Choice students, which is an increase of 4 students from the (PreK-6) School Choice enrollment of October 2012 of 14 School Choice students.

CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Conway Grammar School teachers worked with colleagues in the three other elementary schools in Union #38 to develop a new student report card that reflects the new rigorous Massachusetts curriculum standards. The new report card, which will be distributed three times per year in the months of December, March, and June, provides detailed and specific information about students' learning in all academic areas. The first report cards were distributed in December 2013 and parent feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

Teachers worked during the summer to plan to teach a new curriculum designed to strengthen student writing. The curriculum, developed by faculty at Teachers' College in New York, provides students with daily instruction and practice in writing. Conway students at all grade levels are learning to write clear and well organized narratives, opinions, and informative or explanatory pieces about science and social studies topics.

EDUCATOR EVALUATION

District teachers and administrators received training in the newly developed Massachusetts Educator Evaluation system. District administrators in all schools have begun to use a new online program to guide and document frequent classroom observations and provide feedback to teachers on their instruction.

STAFF

Martha Barrett has moved from Principal at Frontier Regional School to Frontier Regional and Union #38 School Districts’ Superintendent of Schools. Scott Paul joins us this year as the new Director of Instructional Technology replacing Diana Campbell who retired. Michael Peloquin has joined the district as Information Technology Specialist.

As of August 28, 2013, the newly hired faculty members joining the Conway Grammar School are: Dara Herman-Zierlein, Art Teacher.

Catherine Lee, Art Teacher, resigned this year. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.

SPECIAL THANKS

I am pleased to acknowledge the dedication of Conway School Committee members **Chair Janice Warner, Elaine Campbell, Philip Kantor, Robert Moriarty and Erin Beaudet**. The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Conway. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

I would like to recognize and thank all of the dedicated faculty and staff of the Conway Grammar School. It is because of their efforts every single day that we have achieved the success that we have.

As we continue to prepare our students for success in the 21st century it is important to acknowledge that it takes the collective support of everyone in the community to make this happen. This includes the parents and other community members as well as all town officials and employees.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha H. Barrett
Superintendent of Schools

CONWAY SCHOOL REPORT

CONWAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES

Janice Warner, Chair	2014
Elaine Campbell, Vice Chair	2016
Erin Beaudet, Secretary	2015
*Philip Kantor, Member	2014
Robert Moriarty, Member	2015

*Representative to Frontier Regional School Committee

ADMINISTRATION

Superintendent	Martha H. Barrett
Business Manager	Patricia Cavanaugh
Special Education Director	Karen Ferrandino
Administrative Assistant	Donna Hathaway
District Data Coordinator	Mary Jane Whitcomb
Special Education Secretary	Diana Capuano
Receptionist	Rhonda Lutenecker
Bookkeeper, Union #38	Brenda Antes
Bookkeeper, Union #38	Donna Lloyd
Bookkeeper, Grants	Stephan Shepherd
Principal	Judy Siciliano
Secretary to Principal	Lora Hanas

CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL**CONWAY GRAMMAR SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2013**

School Grade	Tuitioned Boys	Girls	Choice		In	Total
Pre-K	9	1	0	0	10	
K		8	7	4	0	19
1	6	8	2	0	16	
2		11	10	3	1	25
3	10	9	2	4	25	
4	16	5	2	1	24	
5	11	12	2	2	27	
6	11	8	3	3	25	
TOTAL	82	60	18	11	171	

UNION #38 TEACHERS' SALARY SCHEDULE**CONWAY, DEERFIELD, SUNDERLAND, WHATELY**

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

STEP	B	B+15	M	M+15	M+30
3	38,847	40,057	41,310	42,601	43,934
4	40,057	41,310	42,601	43,934	45,308
5	41,310	42,601	43,934	45,308	46,723
6	42,601	43,934	45,308	46,723	48,180
7	43,934	45,308	46,723	48,180	49,686
8	45,308	46,723	48,180	49,686	51,239
9	46,723	48,180	49,686	51,239	52,842

10	48,180	49,686	51,239	52,842	54,491
11	49,686	51,239	52,842	54,491	56,193
12	51,239	52,842	54,491	56,193	57,951
13	52,842	54,491	56,193	57,951	59,765
14	56,430	58,134	60,229	62,040	64,498
20	58,181	59,918	62,056	63,903	66,411

Frontier Regional High School

January 2014

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

I am extremely grateful for the privilege of working with the communities that make up the Frontier Regional School District. The quality of education that our students are afforded prepares them well for college, the military and the workforce. We are proud of the job that we do and look forward to the challenges that lay ahead.

ENROLLMENT AND SCHOOL CHOICE

The October 1, 2013 enrollment for Frontier Regional School District totaled 614 students. This is a decrease of 4 students from the October 1, 2012 enrollment figures. Of the 614 students, 123 were School Choice, which is a decrease of 1 student from the School Choice enrollment of October 2012.

The Frontier Regional School graduated 94 students in the Class of 2013.

STAFF

Regina H. Nash has retired as Superintendent of Schools; Martha Barrett has moved from Principal at Frontier Regional School to Frontier Regional and Union #38 School Districts Superintendent of Schools; Darius Modestow has moved from Assistant Principal at Frontier Regional Schools to Principal and Scott Dredge has moved from Special Education Teacher at Frontier Regional School to Assistant Principal. Michele Dostal will replace Scott Dredge as Special Education Teacher. Scott Paul joins us this year as the new Director of Instructional Technology replacing Diana Campbell who retired.

Newly hired faculty members at Frontier Regional School this year are: Pamela Sharron, Foreign Language; Kristine Bourque, Special Education; Daniel Sienkiewicz, Math Lab; Nancy Stenberg, Library/Media Specialist

Retired faculty this year were Joyce Bressam, Special Education ; Wendy Swan, Business/Health; and Shirley Griffin, Foreign Language.

Jon Gould, English; David Mako, Math; Kristen Herrman, Special Education and Rochelle Garfinkel, Library/Media Specialist resigned this year. We wish them the very best in their future endeavors.

CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Frontier faculty continue to focus on the integration of writing across the curriculum. This year the social studies department finalized a rubric that will be used to assess argument writing in grades seven through twelve. The English department finalized a narrative writing rubric that will be used in the middle and high school. All faculty have participated in professional development that fosters the integration of writing into all content areas. Faculty have attended a series of workshops on the John Collins writing program which addresses the new Common Core Standards. In addition, faculty participated in a lesson with their students where the John Collins program techniques were modeled in a live classroom. Faculty continue to work together to calibrate their scoring of writing using the newly developed rubrics and to look for new ways that writing can be incorporated into subjects where writing is not typically used for instruction.

The Frontier Regional School District was required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to implement a new evaluation system beginning this year. As part of this system, faculty developed department based goals for student learning and professional practice. Each department spent time each month during department meetings and professional development days examining student work, discussing best practices and modifying curriculum to meet the needs of their students. The new evaluation system has provided a vehicle for a unified examination of the learning goals for our students. Many of the department goals are focused on the area of student writing and the development of rubrics to accurately assess student progress in writing.

SPECIAL THANKS

I am pleased to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of Frontier Regional School Committee Members: Chair Cyndie Ouimette, Vice Chair Mary Ramon, Secretary William Smith, Members Alexis Toy, Robert Decker, III, Nathanael Fortune, Justine Rosewarne, Alan Lipp, Lyn Roberts, Judy Pierce and Philip Kantor. I look forward with pleasure to continuing our work together.

The members of the Committee work tirelessly on behalf of the children in Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately. Together, I look forward to working with this group to continue to strive for the best educational experience for our students.

I would like to recognize and thank all of the dedicated faculty and staff of the Frontier Regional School. It is because of their efforts every single day that we have achieved the success that we have.

As we continue to prepare our students for success in the 21st century it is important to acknowledge that it takes the collective support of everyone in the community to make this happen. This includes the parents and other community members as well as all town officials and employees.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha H. Barrett
Superintendent of Schools

FRONTIER SCHOOL REPORT

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

	TERM EXPIRES
Cyndie Ouimette, Chair, Conway	2016
*Mary Ramon, Vice-Chair, Deerfield	2014
William Smith, Secretary, Whately	2015
Alexis Toy, Member, Deerfield	2015
Robert Decker, III, Member, Deerfield	2014
*Nathanael Fortune, Member, Whately	2014
*Justine Rosewarne, Member, Sunderland	2014
Alan Lipp, Member, Deerfield	2016
Judy Pierce, Member, Sunderland	2016
*Philip Kantor, Member, Conway	2014
Lynn Roberts, Member, Sunderland	2014

**Representing the local Elementary School Committees for one-year term.*

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, in the Media Center, Frontier Regional School, South Deerfield, Massachusetts at 7:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATION

Martha H. Barrett	Superintendent of Schools
Patricia Cavanaugh	Business Manager
Karen Ferrandino	Director of Special Education
Paula Light	Frontier Regional Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Donna Lloyd	Frontier Regional Bookkeeper
Stephan Shepherd	Grants Bookkeeper
Donna Hathaway	Administrative Assistant

Mary Jane Whitcomb
Diana Capuano

District Data Coordinator
Special Education Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

Darius Modestow	Principal
Scott Dredge	Assistant Principal
Deborah Coons	Data Administrator
Roberta Reiter	Principal's Secretary
Kelly Blanchette	Special Education Secretary
Michelle Russell	Attendance Secretary
Karen Siwicki	Guidance Secretary

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

ENROLLMENT - OCTOBER 1, 2013

Grade	Con.	Deer.	Sund.	What.	Sch. Ch.	Tuit. In	Total
7	14	42	21	8	26	1	112
8	16	41	16	7	28	0	108
9	6	43	16	9	17	0	91
10	18	34	23	10	19	2	106
11	10	43	27	8	13	0	101
12	9	34	20	13	20	0	96
Total	73	237	123	55	123	3	614

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL

SALARY SCHEDULE

July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

STEP	Bach.	Masters	M+30	CAGS/Doctorate
0	38,503	40,357	42,631	44,763
1	40,486	42,112	44,244	46,456
2	42,166	43,910	45,913	48,209
3	43,204	45,772	47,641	50,023
4	44,718	47,237	49,391	51,861
5	45,888	48,786	51,245	53,806
6	47,864	50,342	52,937	55,583
7	49,126	51,940	54,642	57,374
8	50,427	53,250	57,109	59,964
9	52,936	56,275	59,648	62,630
10	55,712	59,536	62,265	65,379
11	56,636	61,731	65,139	68,397
12	58,837	64,012	67,474	70,848
13	59,719	64,972	68,486	71,911
*20L	60,219	65,472	68,986	72,411
**25L	60,719	65,972	69,486	72,911

*Placement on Step 20L occurs when an individual has completed 19 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

**Placement on Step 25L occurs when an individual has completed 24 years of service as a Frontier Regional School faculty member.

FRONTIER REGIONAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY OF BUDGET RELATED EXPENDITURES

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013

CATEGORY

School Committee	\$6,553
Central Office	101,271
Principal's Office	124,489
General Instruction	439,617
Kindergarten	80,271
Pre-School	36,463
Art	9,105
Music	31,488
Physical Education	45,904
Special Education	234,778
Library/Media	57,491
Guidance	13,174
Psychologist	52,481
Student Services	800
Health	44,583
Cafeteria	-
Technology	20,782
Buildings & Grounds	189,732
Fixed Costs	23,580
Transportation	89,250
Fixed Assets	-
Total	\$1,601,812

Franklin County Technical School District

We submit this annual report for 2013 on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students.

Total enrollment as of October 1, 2013 was 523 students with town breakouts as follows:

Bernardston – 20	Buckland – 9
Conway – 23	Colrain – 7
Deerfield – 21	Erving – 24
Gill – 8	Greenfield – 123
Heath – 4	Leyden – 7
Montague – 67	New Salem – 9
Northfield – 33	Orange – 70
Shelburne – 11	Sunderland – 9
Warwick – 12	Wendell – 9
Whately – 9	Non-district – 48

Franklin County Technical School awarded 110 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2013. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS in order to receive a high school diploma and once again our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The graduates also earned their vocational certificate along with their diploma. 41% of our graduates planned to go on to either a two or four year college, 34% joined the area work force, 9% planned to join the military, 7% went on to a post-secondary trade/technical school, and 9% were unsure as to which of the above options they would pursue. We are proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2013.

The Franklin County Technical School construction trades have been busy with a number of projects in a number of communities. Service-learning activities extend the classroom into the real world, building skills that only authentic work can provide. With this benefit for the students, communities also benefit from the work that the school can provide. In Warwick, the electrical, carpentry and plumbing programs have been working on renovation to the Warwick police station. In Wendell, the emergency kitchen at the Town Hall will be having renovation work done. Site visits have been completed and permits are being pulled. Carpentry, plumbing and electrical will all be involved in the upgrade of the grand old building. In Leyden, the Town Hall is in progress of a renovation to its entrance. Carpentry is waiting on input from the architect in order to proceed further. In Sunderland, the carpentry shop will be building a gazebo that will be dedicated in the spring of 2014

in memory of the late principal, Mr. Merritt. Projects in discussion at this point include the massive renovation of a building in Greenfield for the Child Advocacy Center, focusing on child abuse. A recent visit to the building began the discussion.

Also in discussion is the building of a regional animal shelter to be located in Athol. Towns that would belong to the regional shelter would include Athol, Orange, Petersham, New Salem (there may be more). Welding is working on a drop-box for the Northfield Library. Electrical and landscaping dug trenches and ran electrical at the Orange airport and electrical work was done at the Turners Falls airport. Health Technology continues their work at Charlene Manor. Cosmetology has been involved in the Greenfield Rays of Hope Cancer walk and visiting area senior nursing facilities for beauty services. Business Technology coordinated a clothing drive for the Turners Survival Center and Programming and Web Design is helping to design the website for the Virtual School. Landscaping was involved in the Corn yield contest judging. The program started flower/planting beds at the Warwick police station and they were very involved in the Source-to-Sea clean up. Internally, the shops are always doing a lot of work activities that save the school from needing to outsource the work. Electrical installed the bus bar connections for the new Machine Technology equipment and wired all of the new CNC machines. Electrical also did a power expansion in Welding and their students have been utilized by our Network Manager to run communications wiring in the building. The exterior of the building continues to be maintained by the Landscaping program. Plumbing has been involved in installing new sinks, bubblers and other plumbing related repairs. Every one of these activities is a benefit to the students and area towns.

FCTS, like every other school in the Commonwealth and along with 45 other states, is continuing a transition to the new Common Core academic state standards. Franklin County Technical School's MCAS scores have remained steady over the last four years with modest growth. We are pleased to report the implementation of our targeted Math 180 curriculum for grades 9 and 10 during the 2012/13 school year provided the necessary instruction to elevate our accountability status from level 3 to level 2.

The most substantial upgrade in a FCTS program took place this year with the complete modernization of the Machine Technology program. Sorely outdated, the shop was filled with manual machines, some dating back to the 1940's. However, throughout Franklin County, the many small precision machine shops had moved to current technologies.

A coalition was formed, made up of 14 businesses, Greenfield Community College, Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Franklin County Technical School. Funding was acquired from the businesses and state totaling \$550,000 which

was used to purchase 14 Haas Automation machines. Haas discounted the machines \$217,000, and Franklin Hampshire REB secured a state grant in the amount of \$240,000 for an evening, adult education program that will cover two years of training.

New CNC machines arrived in late August, just days before school was to open. Even as the machines were being calibrated and connected, students were eager to run the new machines. In January a third Machine Technology teacher was hired, bringing to the program years of current, modern CNC machining skills to the teaching staff. Walk into the shop today and you find a thriving program that is a model for Machine Technology training.

In closing, we will continue to work diligently to ensure that our graduates are an integral part of the economic development for the region and we thank each and every citizen of Franklin County for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Mr. James M. Laverty
Superintendent-Director

Franklin County Technical School District Committee 2013

Bernardston-Lloyd J. Szulborski; Buckland-Laura J. Earl;
Colrain-Nicole Slowinski; Conway-Stephanie Recore;
Deerfield-Vernon Harrington ½ year; Katherine James ½ year;
Erving-Robert F. Bitzer; Gill- Clifford C. Hatch;
Greenfield-Mark M. Maloney; Christopher L. Joseph; Larry D. Geiser; Jeffrey D. Hampton;
Heath-Arthur A. Schwenger; Leyden-Gerald N. Levine;
Montague-Richard J. Kuklewicz, Chairperson; Dennis L. Grader;
New Salem-Jeff D. Adams; Northfield- Scott Milton;
Orange-Clifford J. Fournier, Secretary; Linda R. Chapman;
Shelburne-Angus Dun; Sunderland-James Bernotas;
Warwick-A. George Day, Jr., Vice-Chairperson;
Wendell-Richard E. Drohen; Whately-Donald C. Sluter

Respectfully,

Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman

Mr. James M. Laverty
Superintendent-Director

REGIONAL REPORTS

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG)

ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

- With special grant funding, the FRCOG hired consultants to conduct an analysis of the Town's IT system, and reviewed its vision for the future, to advise on the best utilization of fiber connections provided by MassBroadband 123. This included completion of a network diagram plan, and bandwidth recommendations.
- Staff worked with a sub-committee of fire chiefs to conduct a baseline assessment of fire services in Franklin County. Consultants from Municipal Resources, Inc. provided technical support. The report is based on data collected from the fire departments, and the state, and provides options for department to work together to address areas of highest concern. The report was presented at the January 2014 Franklin County Fire Chiefs Meeting and is available on the FRCOG website.

COOPERATIVE BIDDING & PURCHASING PROGRAM

- Conway contracted with FRCOG to receive cooperative bid pricing for up to 24 different Highway Products and Services.
- The Town participated in the Dog Licenses & Tags Program.
- The Conway Grammar School is part of the cooperative contract for Fire Alarm Testing services.
- Procurement assistance for the hiring of an Owners Project Manager for the new Town Garage project was also provided.
- Staff attended the monthly Franklin County School Business Managers working group and in 2013 assisted with procurement of a School Bus Transportation Consultant, Fire Alarm Testing Services, and with MBI (Broadband) issues.

COOPERATIVE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

Conway is a shared services member of the CPHS health district, participating in the public health nursing program. District services in 2013 included:

- Walk-in clinics in Conway Town Hall on the first Friday of every month that assist residents with basic health screenings, assessment and monitoring of health conditions. In 2013, 25 residents made 75 visits with the nurse for health screening and health self-management services.

- Staff completed all state-mandated infectious disease investigation, reporting and case monitoring. Follow-up was provided as needed for 22 reported incidents of communicable disease.
- Over 160 Conway residents were served at community flu vaccination clinics held at town hall and the Elementary School. The nurse is available to provide home vaccination to residents in need.
- Staff assisted planning and implementation of the Frontier Region Emergency Dispensing Site Drill and Drive Thru Flu Clinic where 570 flu vaccines were given. Valued community volunteers and GCC service learning student nurses assisted these efforts.
- Staff provided mercury thermometer and sharps disposal and container exchange (collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Mgmt. District) during walk-in wellness clinics.
- Health district grant funding paid for Lyme disease prevention materials for Conway, including tick identification cards, local newspaper ads, and the posting of 6 trail signs in town.

FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE INSPECTION PROGRAM

Staff issued 92 building permits, 57 electrical permits & 68 plumbing/gas permits for Conway in 2013. Five (5) Certificates of Inspections were issued.

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S REGIONAL DOG KENNEL

- Over 200 dogs were sheltered in the Regional Kennel in 2013, and the program raised over \$35,000 through fundraising and donations.
- Nearly 2,200 total volunteer hours were donated over 2013.
- Four (4) dogs from Conway were sheltered at the kennel in 2013.

PARTNERSHIP FOR YOUTH

- Staff conducted a Teen Health Survey to assess teen attitudes and behaviors. Staff reported to Frontier Regional School administrators on results from 222 Frontier students, representing 73% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal No Child Left Behind requirements for the school, enables the school to receive Safe and Drug Free Schools funding, and is valuable for grant-writing and program planning.
- Parents of 7-12th graders at Frontier received postcards with messages reflecting data from the 2011 region-wide parent survey.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- Staff provided technical assistance to the town to complete an update to the town's Open Space & Recreation Plan.

- The Fluvial Geomorphic and Habitat Assessment project for the South River was completed by the consultant who was hired with grant funds secured by FRCOG. Staff facilitated project meetings and completed a final report for the DEP.
- Staff secured grant funding to pay for a portion of the costs for the construction of the #1 priority river restoration site identified in the Fluvial Geomorphic and Habitat Assessment project.
- Staff completed a Corridor Management Plan for the Route 116 Scenic Byway.
- Staff completed a project to permanently protect land in Conway that composes a prominent viewshed along the Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway with funding that was received from Fiscal Year 2012 National Scenic Byway Program.
- Staff identified Alternative Evacuation Emergency Routes
- Staff continued work to develop a Western Massachusetts Scenic Byway Marketing campaign, including the placement of advertising throughout the target area, and launching a website.
- Staff met with Town staff to discuss the potential for TIP funding to improve Main Poland and North Poland Roads.
- Staff updated a GIS map of broadband availability in the Town of Conway, and created a GIS map of the town's functionally classified roads.
- Staff completed a Business Development Profile brochure for the Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Association and its member communities.
- Staff provided technical assistance on zoning revisions including creation of cottage industry and home based business sections.
- Staff conducted three traffic counts.

REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM

- Staff conducted a review of the Frontier Emergency Dispensing Site Plan and ran quarterly contact drills and a site notification drill to test the Plan.
- With FRCOG assistance, members of the Board of Health planned and executed a drive-through flu clinic serving 570 residents of Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately.
- Three volunteers are active members on the Citizen Corps Team.

TOWN ACCOUNTING PROGRAM

- Staff closed FY13 books and submitted required state reports.
- Staff produced biweekly vendor warrants, and provided monthly budget reports to all officials and department heads.
- At year end, Staff completed free cash certification, and Schedule A was submitted. In addition, Staff provided assistance in completing the Recap for tax rate submission.
- Staff customized reports for committees and departments were developed and distributed.
- Staff assisted with annual audit.

- All accounting data was accessible over a secure internet connection to a server at the FRCOG office. Backups were completed daily and there was no unscheduled down time.

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops and training sessions that public officials, staff and/or residents attended (and the number of people in attendance).

Board of Health and Public Health Workshops: Climate Change and Emergency Preparedness – 1; Lyme Disease Training – 1

Planning Board Workshops: Non-Conforming Structures, Lots, Uses & Vest Rights Training – 2

Regional Preparedness Workshops: SkyWarn Training – 2

Select Board Essentials Workshops: Basics of School Finance – 2 Getting the Most From the FRCOG – 1; Legal Nuts & Bolts – 1; Liquor & Licensing: Your Selectboard's Role – 1; Medical Marijuana – 5; Advanced Open Meeting Law – 1; Preparing for the Silver Wave: The Aging of Franklin County and its Impacts – 3

Western Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council (WRHSAC) Training Sessions:

Global Positioning System (GPS) DPW Training – 1

For additional details about FRCOG programs, we encourage residents to read the FRCOG Annual Report, which will be posted on our web site, www.frcog.org, or you can receive a copy by calling 413-774-3167.

FRCOG – Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program

Dear Residents of Conway:

As you know, your town receives building, plumbing, gas, and wiring inspection and zoning enforcement services through the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP), a thirty-eight year old shared service housed at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). We thank your town for your continued participation in the FCCIP, which allows small towns to have access to professional staff and state-of-the-art technology.

2013 was a busy year for the program. We issued 2,335 permits, including a significant number of insulation upgrade, solar array and wood/pellet stove permits. 29 new dwelling units were constructed in participating towns. The number of permits and fee revenues were higher in 2013 than in the previous year.

Our new online permitting program went live on July 1, 2011 and has issued 6,858 building, electrical & plumbing/gas permits since then. The program allows you to apply, pay for, and track the progress of any permit online, saving you time and visits to our office in Greenfield. The program has 2,346 registered users. You can find it at www.frcog.org under the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program. Our website also includes helpful information on inspection requirements, permit costs, and contractor licensing.

In 2013, the FCCIP processed the following permits for Conway:

Residential Building Permits	88
Commercial Building Permits	3
Sheet Metal/Duct Permits	1
Electrical Permits	57
Plumbing Permits	26
Gas Permits	42
Certificates of Inspection	5

We would like to remind all residents of the importance of applying for permits for work done. Building, Electrical and Plumbing/Gas permits are required by law and are an essential step in ensuring the safety of our communities. Please feel free to call our office with any building or zoning questions at 774-3167, extension 2.

James D. Hawkins	James Cerone
Building Commissioner	Building Inspector
jhawkins@frcog.org	jcerone@frcog.org

Tom McDonald	Andy French
Electrical Inspector	Plumbing/Gas Inspector
electric@frcog.org	plumbing@frcog.org

FRCOG – Cooperative Public Health Service

Conway is a member of the Public Health Nursing Program of the CPHS, a health district based at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. Activities for Conway this year included:

- Walk-in clinics in Conway Town Hall on the first Friday of every month. Public Health Nurse Lisa White assists residents with basic health screenings, assessment and monitoring of health conditions. In 2013, 25 residents made 75 visits with the nurse for health screening and health self-management services.

- The Nurse completed all state-mandated infectious disease investigation, reporting and case monitoring. Follow-up was provided as needed for 22 reported incidents of communicable disease.
- Over 160 Conway residents were served at community flu vaccination clinics held at town hall and the Elementary School. The nurse is available to provide home vaccination to residents in need.
- The Public Health Nurse assisted planning and implementation of the Frontier Region Emergency Dispensing Site Drill and Drive Thru Flu Clinic where 570 flu vaccines were given. Valued community volunteers and GCC service learning student nurses assisted these efforts.
- CPHS offered Conway residents mercury thermometer exchange, sharps disposal and sharps container exchange in collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Mgmt. District.
- Health district grant funding paid for Lyme disease prevention materials for Conway, including tick identification cards, local newspaper ads, and the posting of 6 trail signs in town. More trail signs are available to interested landowners.

Conway's representatives to the CPHS Oversight Board are Tom Hutcheson and Carl Nelke. www.frcog.org

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-two member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2013 shows a growing decrease from 2012. Paper recycling was down by 200 tons compared to 2012. District residents recycled over 1,700 tons of paper and over 1,100 tons of mixed containers, which were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. Although market prices for recyclables were low from January through December, District towns received a total of \$62,100 in revenue for their recyclables.

In 2013, the District sponsored spring and fall “Clean Sweep” collections for bulky items, electronics, tires, appliances, and anything too big to fit into a trash bag.

Almost 60 tons of material was recycled or disposed of from the two collections. A total of 540 households participated in these collection events.

We also held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2013. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 257 households participated in this event. 45% of participants were using the collection for the first time.

We received an \$18,000 grant from the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to set up a pilot recycling collection for plastic waste generated at agricultural operations. The District is working to continue this project in 2014 because we know that many farms struggle with managing this type of plastic waste. We also helped member towns implement \$17,000 worth of small-scale initiative grants from the MA DEP.

We also continue to manage the recycling and composting program at the Franklin County Fair and assist other events with waste reduction efforts. We continue to work in each school system helping with waste management bids and with fostering sustainable waste reduction programs.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*

Jonathan Lagreze, Colrain - *Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Vice-Chair*

Andrea Donlon, Buckland – *Treasurer*

Central Franklin County Veterans' Services

The Central Franklin County District was formed in 1940 and provides Veterans Services for twenty three towns within Franklin County.

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Services (DVS) is to be the chief advocate for the nearly half-million veterans of the Commonwealth and their families.

Under Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. ch. 115), the Commonwealth provides a uniform program of financial and medical assistance for income eligible veterans and their dependents. Qualifying veterans and their dependents receive financial assistance for food, shelter, clothing, housing supplies,

and medical care in accordance with a formula which takes into account the number of dependents and income from all sources. Eligible dependents of deceased veterans are provided with the same benefits as they would were the veteran still living.

The District office is located at 190 Millers Falls Road, Turners falls, Mass.01376. Our offices are open four days a week from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM (413-863-3205), and Friday by appointment. Leo Parent is the Director of Veterans Services, Mark Fitzpatrick is your Veterans Services Officer, and Donna Bezio is our Administrative Assistant.

If you are a Veteran not currently enrolled in the VA healthcare, you are invited to contact their main eligibility office and 413-582-3091. Further information can be found at www.va.gov/healtheligibility.

Many Veterans have been calling looking for the VA Web Sites. Here are a few for you:

Educational Benefits www.gibill.va.gov

Home Loan Guaranty www.homeloans.va.gov

Federal Jobs www.usajobs.opm.gov

Returning Veterans www.seamlesstransition.va.gov

VA Home Page. www.va.gov

Government Jobs. www.usajobs.gov/opm

Greenfield Based Outpatient Clinic, 143 Munson St. 413-773-8428

HOME OF THE BRAVE:

Mass Housing's Home for the Brave loan program provides affordable, no-down payment mortgages for veterans of the U.S. Armed Services living in Massachusetts. To apply for a Home of the Brave loan, contact a participating lender.

For a complete list of Home for the Brave lenders, visit:

www.masshousing.com/veteran.

You can call Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency at 888-672-7562.

Sincerely,
Leo J. Parent, Jr
Director
1-413-863-3205

TOWN MEETING FAQs

What do the following terms mean?

The term....

Means

dismiss an article

To defeat it

Postpone an article indefinitely

To defeat it

take no action on an article

To defeat it

lay the question on the table

To kill or postpone (depending on the town) a measure

table the question

To kill or postpone (depending on the town) a measure

move the previous question

To cut off debate and vote on the issue at hand

If you have more questions about procedure or how Town Meeting should proceed, please go to the following web site for the "Citizen's Guide to Town Meetings":

<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cistwn/twnidx.htm>